

Branch Meeting

**Tuesday
25th
April
6.30 p.m.**

STUC
333 Woodlands Road
Glasgow
G3 6NG



Regional officer Michael Fuller addressing the amicus Scottish Conference of NHS representatives held last month (a video of Michael's address is available on the Branch website)

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Health minister praises Scottish NHS

Andy Kerr, the minister for health in the Scottish Executive, has praised the Scottish NHS in an interview published in the influential Health Service Journal. 'I strongly believe that the NHS in Scotland is delivering well' he said. However in what might be regarded as a criticism of previous NHS reorganisations he said 'Change is a necessary ingredient to ensure that we continue to deliver that improved service.... but any process of re-organisation completely takes your eye off the customer, the patient, the

service. So I am driving change by allowing people to work more effectively together. I never want another policy to be issued where we haven't fully thought through implementation and cost—the who and how and the when.'

On being asked to comment about the differences in the NHS in the rest of the UK he said 'We have in the UK a number of systems in operation and a number of ways of running the health service. We've got our way and it had better bloody work.'

Government to implement pay review body report

The Government has published the report of the Pay Review Body (PRB). NHS staff on Agenda for Change (AfC) pay bands and who are covered by the PRB (nurses, AHPs, healthcare scientists etc) will be given an increase of 2.5% with effect from 1st April. The NHS employers have indicated that they will make a similar offer to staff not covered by the PRB.

However, representatives present at the Glasgow Group meeting held on Thursday 23rd March were angered to learn that members will

not receive the usual annual pay rise on 1st April unless or until they are assimilated onto the new Agenda for Change (AfC) pay bands. Whilst this means that everyone will eventually get the increase, at the current rate of AfC progress it could well be sometime next year before many amicus members see this year's increase. After discussion it was agreed to ask Regional officer to refer the matter to Scottish level discussions. It is believed that amicus will now raise this with NHS Employers at UK level.

Contacts

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Bill Goudie retires

Long serving Branch activist Bill Goudie retired from the NHS at the end of last month. Bill, who was employed as a pharmacist at Glasgow Royal Infirmary, held a variety of union posts including Chair of Glasgow Health Service Branch and senior representative in North Glasgow. Perhaps his most prominent position was when he was elected as the Staff Side Chair of Greater Glasgow Health Board's Partnership Forum and subsequently confirmed by the Minister of Health as Employee Director. The Officers and Committee of the Branch are sure that members will join them in thanking Bill for his contribution over many years and wishing him a long and health retirement.

Carmail criticises panic-driven trusts

Amicus national secretary for health has criticised NHS Trusts in England which are cutting jobs in order to balance the books. She called on trusts to halt the "panic-driven, slash and burn approach" to cutting jobs and to adopt a more mature way of handling their budgets.

In the last two weeks a succession of NHS employers in England have announced serious job cuts, for example:

County Durham and Darlington (which includes Tony Blair's constituency): 300 this year + up to 400 more later;

North Staffs: 1000 (including up to 750 compulsory redundancies);

Royal Cornwall : 300 (quote "Voluntary redundancies are not always the best option financially.")

Royal Free (North London): 480 etc etc

NHS chiefs' pay soars

The pay of chief executives of NHS foundation hospital trusts in England rose by 10 per cent last year, with the highest-paid director (the chief executive of Guy's and St Thomas's NHS Foundation Trust) earning more than £200,000. The pay of other senior NHS directors rose by seven per cent. Dame Gill Morgan, chief executive of the NHS Confederation, said: "With unprecedented investment and resources going into the NHS, we need to make sure that we attract the brightest and best managers to the job."

BMS AfC results on-line

A current, detailed update of the BMS, Cytology screener and MLA Agenda for Change banding outcomes can be found at

<http://www.main.amicus-mchs.co.uk/bmsresults/bmsresultsaccess.asp>

As this service is being provided by lay members it covers only those groups where members have provided the information.

Branch Meeting Tuesday 25th April

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of previous meeting and arising.
3. Correspondence.
4. Reports.
5. Motions.
6. A.O.C.B.

The next meeting of the Branch will be held on Wednesday 24th May 2006 at 6.30 p.m. All meetings are held in the Scottish Trade Union Congress, 333 Woodlands Road, Glasgow G3 6NG. (Tea, coffee & biscuits 6.15 p.m.)

