



Joint Union Decontamination Strategy Bulletin No 3

The joint unions would wish to reiterate their opposition to all forms of privatisation of public services, including those contained in the Department of Health decontamination strategy recommendations.

Locally and nationally members should not assist in the formal process of evaluating bids for future decontamination and sterile services where these are limited to the private sector.

We would also like to stress that locally unions ***should*** be actively involved and formally participating in any forum that is considering the future provision of decontamination services in their trust. Guidance on this will be circulated shortly.

Notwithstanding the above, local union representatives will of course be representing the best interests of threatened staff in any way possible. That would include being consulted on all relevant workforce issues covered by any tender and bidding process documentation.

The joint unions would also recommend that the following wording is incorporated into all staffs current NHS contracts of employment as a matter of urgency:

"Your terms and conditions of employment are in accordance with:-

(a) The NHS Terms and Conditions of Service Handbook (or any other set of terms and conditions that may succeed this Handbook);

(b) Any other national agreement relevant to your employment reached between the NHS Staff Council (or any successor body) and recognised trade unions; and

(c) Any local collective agreement relevant to your employment reached between your employer and recognised trade unions."

15 November 2005