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PRESS RELEASE

UNITE HEALTH MEMBERS CANVASSED ON INDUSTRIAL ACTION OVER 'DERISORY' PAY

Members of Unite, the country's largest union, are being canvassed on a menu for industrial action to reverse the government's hard line stance on below-inflation pay awards for NHS staff.

A series of meetings are being held across the UK this month to give Unite activists the opportunity to say what type of industrial action they would be prepared to take in protest at the 'derisory' three-year 7.99% below-inflation pay deal imposed by the ministers.

Unite's National Officer for Health, Dave Fleming said: 'At the meetings we have held so far, there has been a real sense of anger and frustration at the inability of government to recognise the dedication and hard work of health service professionals.'

'This coupled with the soaring cost of living highlighted by the Retail Price Index which saw inflation hit 5% last month is the engine driving the demand for industrial action under the banner of our *Cut NHS Pay - No Way!* campaign.'

'Once we have collated all the feedback from the meetings we will then be balloting our members for industrial action, offering them a menu of options they may wish to take. Our campaign is underpinned by our members voting overwhelmingly to reject the pay deal earlier in the summer.'

Meetings coming up include: **West Bromwich** (5 September); **Esher** (9 Sept); **London** (10 Sept); **Nottingham** (12 Sept); **Glasgow** (19 Sept); **Belfast** (24 Sept) and also in **Wales**.

Unite has already launched a national petition asking its health sector members, as well as the general public, to sign the petition which it hopes to present to Downing Street later in the year. The petition can be downloaded from www.unitetheunion.com/health

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Unite is campaigning against the imposed three-year NHS pay deal which will mean pay rises being barely 50% of the current rate of inflation. More information is available on the 'campaigns' page of the website www.amicustheunion.org

Unite/CPHVA press releases can be seen on the CPHVA website:
www.unitetheunion.com/cphva

Unite is the largest union in the UK. It has seven professional sections: the Community Practitioners' and Health Visitors' Association, the Mental Health Nurses Association, the Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists, the Society of Sexual Health Advisers, the Medical Practitioners' Union, College of Healthcare Chaplains, and the Hospital Physicists Association.

Unite was formed by an amalgamation of Amicus and the Transport and General Workers' Union in May 2007.