

UNITE NHS PAY CAMPAIGN LATEST – REPS DIRECT

18 DECEMBER 2008

A joint meeting of Unite's Health Sector National Industrial Committee on Tuesday, 16 December - attended by representatives from both the Amicus and TGWU sections - decided to reconvene in January 'to agree the way forward' in respect of the dispute over the three-year 'derisory' pay deal.

The decision was taken so that consideration could be given to the pending announcement by the Pay Review Body (PRB) and to allow the other NHS trade unions time to react and declare their strategies. It is also important that more time is given to allow a meaningful political dialogue to take place.

The PRB has now reported and it is not recommending to Health Secretary, Alan Johnson that the 're-opener' clause be triggered. Unite believes that the PRB's present remit is framed 'too narrowly' to tackle the whole raft of issues relating to pay and employment conditions.

Unite National Officer for Health, David Fleming said: 'Our members have voted overwhelmingly to reject the three-year pay deal imposed by the government.'

'Unite is still in dispute with the four health departments of the UK over the pay deal which is still well below the current rate of inflation, and as a consequence of that it is important we maintain our democratic mandate for industrial action up to and including strike action.'

'It is firmly in the hands of government to resolve this dispute early in 2009. We call, once more, on the government to enter into meaningful talks on the issue of a realistic pay deal for hard-working NHS staff.'

'Our members need to be reassured about the continuing independence of the PRB and to receive a written guarantee that future agreements affecting NHS workers are not conducted in a semi-secret manner that excludes the majority of other trade unions and their members.'

The committee will meet again on Monday, 12 January.

We also attach a summary of the coverage and activity that took place on our day of action on the 3rd December. And the latest press release on the campaign dated 18 December.

We sincerely thank all of you who took part on the day which re-affirmed our correct and legitimate principled position in respect of pay and our members' interests.

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