

Amicus Unity Gazette Health Workers

Pay: Reject this insulting offer

The NHS is in deep trouble, with around 26,000 jobs lost across services in England. Cuts and redundancies are commonplace. Privatisation is ripping the NHS apart. Our members are bearing the brunt of New Labour's attacks on the health service.

In 2008, things are set to get even worse. The 'extra' money given to the NHS is set to stop, with a tight financial squeeze beginning. If we accept a pay cut this year, we can rely on an even bigger pay cut next year.

And if we stand firm on pay now, then we can send a message to the Government: *'Health workers aren't a push over - hands off our NHS'*.

There's never been a better time to fight on pay. The Government is trying to cut pay for **all** public sector workers, and that means that every public sector union will be consulting their members on a response. Action by postal workers has already won an improved offer. United protests across five million public sector workers could be very, very powerful indeed.

Vote against a pay cut – vote against this miserable offer.

A pay cut for every NHS worker

With inflation running at over 4%, the Pay Review Body recommendation of a 2.5% pay increase for health workers was completely inadequate.

But for the Government, even this was too much. Following Gordon Brown's personal intervention, the 2.5% was offered in stages – 1.5% payable in April 2007, with the remaining 1% in November. This works out at only 1.9% - less than half the rate of inflation.



NHS bosses in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales realised that this was an insult, and awarded the 2.5% in full. In England, the Government is trying to cut pay across the whole of the public sector. The final offer to English NHS workers is the original 1.9% plus a miserable £38 a year towards professional registration fees. The very lowest paid staff on Pay Bands 1 and 2 get a tiny amount more than this, but still way below the rate of inflation.

1.9% was a rubbish offer. 1.9% plus £38 is still a rubbish offer. Health workers in Unite, Unison and RCN are all balloting their members on whether to accept or reject. We have to reject a pay cut.

- Inflation: 4.4% and rising
- Government's pay offer: 1.9%