

Dear MP/Councillor/MEP,

I will be strongly deterred from voting for you at the next election unless your party plans to stop our NHS from being run for profit at the expense of patient care. I have five key concerns:

Safety is being put at risk by using private companies. I do not want my safety compromised for the sake of profits. Tragically there have been avoidable deaths in private treatment centres doing out-sourced NHS operations – in one case because the clinic didn't even have blood on-site. How will you protect patients?

So much money is being wasted. I want my taxes to be spent on a better health service, not to go to private shareholders or be wasted on bureaucracy. Stop diverting money away from front-line care into pointless tendering, contracts, lawyers, billing and now even NHS advertising. This is the reality of the market – costs we simply don't need. What will you do to stop this waste?

Financial pressures are coming before patient care. I want the priority of NHS managers to be the patients, not achieving financial success and creating a surplus in the new market health service. We saw what this leads to at Mid-Staffordshire hospital where the death rate ballooned because managers were distracted by their financial goals. Will you fight for patients?

PFI is bleeding the NHS dry. Hospitals that cost £8bn to build will end up costing £53bn under the private finance initiative because of interest payments and profit – it's like buying hospitals on a credit card. What's worse is that much of the money goes to the same big banks that the taxpayer had to bail out. The government should use its shareholder position to renegotiate the agreements. Will you campaign for PFI to be scrapped?

The Scots and the Welsh get a better deal. In Wales prescription charges have been abolished; in Scotland the NHS has not been forced into wasteful competition. Markets don't work in healthcare – just look at the vastly expensive American system. Why should England go down the US path while the Welsh and Scottish governments are showing another route is possible and more popular with patients? Will you work to end this disparity?

I know that the large amount of investment in the NHS over recent years has brought progress, but I am frustrated that the gains have been undermined by market reforms that have been unnecessary, wasteful and have compromised safety. This is not only the opinion of patients but of medical professionals and health workers, including the BMA, RCN, Unite and Unison. To secure my vote you must stand up against health service commercialisation.

Yours sincerely,