



PRESS RELEASE

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UNION ATTACKS HOSPITAL FAT CATS

The Northern Region's biggest general trade union, the GMB, today hit out at a local NHS Trust which it says is in severe danger of bankruptcy.

The GMB says that North Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust (NCUH) has amassed a debt of £21 million pounds (approx. 9% of the Trust's total turnover) and as such is conducting reviews across a variety of Departments. The GMB are of the opinion that NCUH are stripping services and threatening well over 100 jobs.

Kevin Young GMB Regional Organiser said:

"We believe that number could be well over one hundred, these include Nurses, Cleaners, Catering Staff and also Administrative Staff where there is an intention to offshore work in the Finance Department. We will just not sit back and let our members' jobs be threatened by an incompetent Board of Executive Directors who their own staff have no confidence in".

GMB understands that NCUH are on the verge of bankruptcy. The Union believes that despite this, NCUH are proposing to cut jobs and services under the cover of efficiency savings, while still employing two Executive Directors, who the GMB thought had been dismissed by NCUH for their culpability in the Saiger Discrimination Tribunal. The GMB further understands that one of the Directors is paid £135,000 per annum, the other £85,000 per annum.

Mr. Young said:

"Given that they these two Directors have been kept in employment by NCUH for over two years since the Tribunal, there could have been savings made in the region of half a million pounds, which in itself would save 40 of our member jobs. The GMB will not will not tolerate this reward for failure. NCUH's Board are showing a staggering level of cronyism and arrogance and are willing to fund from the public purse two discredited Executive Directors at the expense of our members jobs and services. The

GMB and our members have no confidence in the NCUH Board and we believe the wider community does not either".

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Contact GMB Organiser Kevin Young 07870 176 747

NOTES TO EDITORS

For details of the Saiger Discrimination Tribunal contact KY