



PRESS RELEASE

UNION ANNOUNCES RESULT OF NO CONFIDENCE VOTE

Cumbria's biggest general trade union today announced the result of a no confidence vote that it has recently undertaken in a major Cumbrian NHS Trust.

The GMB Union balloted its members within North Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust in relation to whether or not GMB members in the Trust had confidence in the Trust Board. The GMB today announced that 98% of its members voted that they had no confidence in the Trust Board.

GMB Regional Organiser for the Trust Kevin Young said:

"This result is delivered at a time when the very same Board who GMB members have no confidence in is looking for savings of £21 million and has conducted a series of reviews across a range of Departments within the two Hospital sites at Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle and West Cumberland Hospital, Whitehaven. The Board also has recently announced a Management Review which it is our belief would not have happened if the ballot of no confidence had not taken place.

GMB have stated to the Trust Board that we are willing to work with them to achieve the savings the Trust has to make but the Board's approach has been one of isolation and they have ignored their duty to consult with GMB every step of the way. As such the Trusts belligerent attitude has seen the GMB lodge numerous disputes against the Trust.

The result of the ballot clearly shows that our members are sending a loud message to the Trust Board that they have to re-engage the GMB and work with us in a manner that is conducive to good industrial relations and not as they have been by announcing a series of Departmental reviews that are nothing more than stripping assets out of health care in Cumbria to the private sector".

-ENDS-

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