

Letter from GMB to FHFT CEO Neil Dardis:

Hi Neil,

Hope you and your family are keeping safe and well at this time.

I was going to write to you to just ask for an update on the status of the pause around the Wholly Owned subsidiary process and to query if during the lockdown and huge pressures upon the trust if your team had progressed plans to continue to move facility's etc into the private sector since Janet Kings departure?

But the exceptionally way in which NHS trusts and in this case the FHFT staff have handled themselves during the pandemic being a testimony to the resilience and collective spirit of the NHS when under extreme pressure, has led me to re-evaluate the wisdom of such plans though.

In light of this obvious demonstration about everything that is good about the NHS and those who work for it, we are seeking assurances that the trust and its board have decided to Halt for good plans for the creation of a Wholly own subsidiary (WOS) as a direct thank you and in recognition of the outstanding strength and loyalty to the trust and service to patients shown by all those threaten with being spirited out of the NHS.

I would hope that as a responsible employer you cannot still be considering privatising NHS heroes but if that is indeed still going to be the case, I would remind you that the GMB's resilient opposition, joined now by a huge swell of public support and admiration for those who have given so much during this pandemic, would see a dispute raise its head not only once more but even more strongly than before within the public domain.

Our members are not in fear of change, working during Covid has shown that, but any changes or service redesign with the GMB's assistance, will need to see staff remain within the NHS and using national scopes, job descriptions and bandings going forward to measure pay, progression etc.

I look forward to your update and confirmation of the end of the WOS threat going forward.

Regards

Gary