

SOUTH WESTERN AMBULANCE BRANCH



Mr Ken Wenman
Chief Executive
South Western Ambulance Foundation NHS Trust
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Mr Alan Lofthouse
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South Western Ambulance Branch
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24th October 2011

Open letter to CEO for joint lobbying of Government

Dear Ken,

I write to you on behalf of our branch and members in response to our last JNCC meeting where you outlined a staff consultation to look at reductions in terms and conditions to meet the financial challenge that our Trust faces.

This letter seeks to outline our position and also find a joint position to move forward in partnership.

We understand the gap in funding which you have demonstrated to us through the JNCC and we have tried to help, where possible, to realise the efficiencies from the service without resorting to reductions in terms and conditions or redundancies.

We are disappointed that you have taken the decision to write to all staff about cutting terms and conditions as we feel the responsibility for the cuts in funding to be that of the Government and the bankers, not our members.

We also feel that threatening redundancies if staff are not willing to accept cuts is inappropriate given that you will not be able to deliver the service without the staff and any reductions in workforce will affect the Trust overall performance thereby adversely affecting patient care.

In order to try and find some joint partnership working I would like to suggest that we engage in joint lobbying of the Government to highlight the loss to service which the cuts will cause, and the effects of the budget reductions, to the patients we serve; and to seek higher levels of funding from our commissioners.

We believe this to be an important step, as a highly regarded Foundation Trust, to gain the support ministers who should be sympathetic and concerned with reductions in service provision to the vulnerable constituents they serve.

We would like to find opportunities for partnership working and see this as a positive step towards meeting the challenges ahead.

Kind regards

Alan Lofthouse
Branch Secretary
On behalf of South Western Ambulance Branch
UNISON

CC: Members of UNISON in South Western Ambulance NHS Foundation Trust

UNISON...The Union For Ambulance Personnel

BRANCH SECRETARY; ALAN LOFTHOUSE

BRANCH CHAIRMAN; IAN KNIGHT

BRANCH TREASURER; GRAHAM ROWLAND