



Council – 2 February 2023

Notice of Motion – Minimum Service Bill

Notice of Motion from Councillors Rob Stewart, David Hopkins, Andrea Lewis, Cyril Anderson, Robert Francis-Davies, Louise Gibbard, Hayley Gwilliam, Elliott King, Alyson Pugh, Robert Smith, Andrew Stevens, Jan Curtice, Wendy Lewis, Lesley Walton, Nicola Matthews, Mike Lewis and Chris Holley

This Council is appalled by the UK government's draft legislation which proposes to limit the ability of health workers from exercising their right to strike.

This ill-thought out and unnecessary legislation will prevent many professions including doctors, nurses and other health workers from taking strike action, or place them in a position where they are facing dismissal.

Minimum standards of service are already maintained within the health service during industrial action, so this legislation is completely unnecessary, and looks like an ideological attack on workers' rights, at a time when the main threat to patient safety is the inability to recruit staff due to inadequate pay and poor working conditions.

Council notes that this legislation comes from the same Tory Government, which during the Covid pandemic, encouraged us all to clap for these very same doctors and nurses, who were risking their lives day in day out, while ministers in the Tory government, and the then prime minister himself, were partying and breaking the rules they expected the whole country to follow.

This Council condemns the action of the UK Government in bringing forward this legislation, and calls upon the prime minister and his ministers to withdraw these egregious proposals. We also call upon the Leader of Council to write to the prime minister in the strongest possible terms to outline our concerns.