

11th October 2005

Dear Mr Ainsworth,

Our congregation includes many of your constituents and all rely on the local hospitals for their health. Our NHS Trust is a public body, funded by us, and should serve the local community. Following endless demands from our congregation, we again formally raise the matter of Dr Raj Mattu with you as our constituency MP and in who's area the hospital is based.

We also want a properly-run NHS, well funded but with decent management, but do you honestly believe the current management at our NHS Trust are providing this? They have announced a £7.8 million overspend, and have closed the cancer day care centre and ward B3, losing 14 beds. They gave very little notice of the closures to the staff, many of whom now fear that redundancies will follow, and still the Trust Chair, Mr Bryan Stoten, maintained in the Evening Telegraph that "patient care remains our top priority".

Patient care is Dr Mattu's top priority and that is why he spoke out over patient deaths and the Trust management's overcrowding of patient bays. A BBC news report on 28th September revealed the deaths of at least 11 patients squeezed in to overcrowded bays. Was Dr Mattu wrong to raise his concerns publicly? If patient care was the top priority of Mr Stoten and his management team is it right for them to continue to stop Dr Mattu from working after over three and a half years of suspension? The costs of suspending Dr Mattu, including employing locum consultants, and the Trust's inquiry runs into millions. This is a gross misuse of scarce NHS monies by the Trust Managers.

You have stated that Mr Stoten has briefed you on the case. Could you therefore kindly advise us as to exactly what you have done to remedy this situation? We call on your urgent intervention to instigate an inquiry into this whole matter, the misuse of NHS funds and for Dr Mattu to be reinstated pending a fair and decent investigation outside the Trust.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Sadhu Singh
(President)
cc MPs