

Coventry

5th October 2005

The Letters Editor
Evening Telegraph
Corporation Street
Coventry
CV1 1FP

Dear Sirs,

We constantly hear that more money is being pumped into our NHS. That the NHS is improving, waiting lists are going down and key targets are being met. Yet we also hear of rising MRSA, delayed/ cancelled operations, and mismanaged finances. Where is the money going? The biggest increase in the NHS has been in management.

On 28 September 2005 BBC Midlands Today reported on the scandalous fact that at least 11 patients who had been crammed by Trust Management into overcrowded wards at Walsgrave Hospital had died. The former Chief Executive of the Trust, Mr David Loughton, stated that they had received £4.5 million to stop the practice. This was after the practice had been externally condemned as unsafe by the Commission for Health Improvement.

The point is patients should not have been exposed to danger in the first place. Mr. Loughton ignored the fact that the policy had been condemned by doctors and nurses at the hospital as unsafe. Instead, the person who originally blew the whistle on this, Dr Raj Mattu, was suspended by the Trust Management in 2002, and they continue to bar him from working at the Walsgrave Hospital at a cost in excess of £1.5 million. There is plenty of money in the NHS but it is being misused by managers on pursuing vendettas instead of healthcare.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Peter Steeley