



# Work in the NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

MAY 2011/05

## NHS NEWS UPDATE

This Month updates include:

- Update for GMB members on NHS Pensions & Down Grading
- The Dept of Health abolishes the Two Tier Code.
- Details on how you can get involved in your union.
- All GMB members invited to support the NHS Vigil.

**PENSIONS** – GMB members are being encouraged to get involved in the Pensions discussions. The last GMB Newsletter covered some key issues on Pensions and also offered members to organise a workplace meeting to discuss the NHS Pension. Contact your local rep if a meeting has not been arranged.

**ABOLITION OF THE TWO TIER CODE** – The Dept of Health have now withdrawn from the two tier code. This code required NHS contractors to encourage employing new staff on broadly similar terms and conditions for staff delivering services to the NHS.

**DOWN GRADING/BANDING** – Have you and your colleagues experienced any down banding/grading? If so how did your employer deal with this? The GMB has issued advice and guidance to workplace organisers. Contact your local GMB office for a copy of the briefing.

**WHAT KEY ISSUES ARE AFFECTING YOU AT WORK?**  
– The GMB is a proactive campaigning union and are always keen to ensure views of members are heard. The GMB is keen to hear how we can effectively communicate with our members. If you would like to have GMB NHS Newsletters sent directly to you then email [nhs@gmb.org.uk](mailto:nhs@gmb.org.uk) with your name, email address and membership number and you will be added to the mailings lists.

**GMB – YOUR UNION YOUR VOICE IN YOUR WORKPLACE**

**Getting organised in the GMB** – The GMB's NHS National Advisory Committee exists to represent the interests of all Health Workers in the GMB. The GMB also has a further two professional bodies that are sub groups of the GMB Committee.

Group one is for Ambulance Staff. A representative from each NHS Ambulance Trust in the UK comes together on a regular basis to discuss specific issues to Ambulance Staff.

Group two is the Community District Nurses and Registered Nurses Group. When the CDNA merged with the GMB they brought a wealth of professional experience that strengthened the Nursing Arm of the GMB.

Nominations are being sought on groups where there is a vacancy. If you are a workplace organiser and would like to develop experience in any of the vacant roles contact your local region to discuss the vacancies and your potential involvement.

Join online at [www.gmb.org.uk/join](http://www.gmb.org.uk/join)



## Why Join?

GMB is Britain's fastest growing trade union. GMB is a campaigning trade union; its job is to get the best deal for GMB members at work and is committed to building a strong organisation in every GMB workplace, and so help make every workplace safer. Whoever you are, wherever you work: joining GMB is the right decision.

GMB wins over £50 million each year for its members who have been injured or made ill at work. This service is free to GMB members as part of their membership package.

GMB members work in every part of the UK economy doing every type of job imaginable including your Sector. GMB members are men and women, full and part time, young and old and are made up of a wide and diverse cross section of our society.

Every day of the year GMB Workplace Representatives are solving members' problems and providing expert guidance and advice to members at work on a range of issues including:

- hours of work
- pay
- work life balance
- job security
- pensions
- health & safety
- legal advice
- how to deal with bullying and harassment
- equality at work
- disciplinary and grievance matters

GMB has almost 25,000 GMB trained Workplace Representatives - members who voluntarily give their time to negotiate, advise and represent work colleagues who are GMB members. Backing up these GMB Workplace Representatives is a network of full time GMB Organisers and specialists who are experts in the world of work.

**NHS VIGIL** – The GMB is supporting the 'All together for the NHS' Campaign which was launched earlier this year. GMB members up and down the country have been participating in rallies and demonstrations to raise their concerns about how the Government Bill to reform the NHS could have drastic consequences both for patient service and outcome and for NHS staff.

The next reading of the Bill in Parliament is a crucial time. We are asking members to consider joining a vigil that will unite all people who care about the NHS – you can join the vigil by registering your details at the following website:

<http://action.goingtowork.org.uk/nhsvigil> or email [the nhs@gmb.org.uk](mailto:nhs@gmb.org.uk) and we can register your details for you.

Anyone who registers their details to join the vigil will be sent an email couple of weeks before the Parliament debate and will be asked to do one of the following:

**GROUP VIGILS:** Regional union offices/branches/campaign groups can adopt a local MP's Constituency Officer or local Hospital and hold vigils on the evening. The False Economy website will schedule all the vigils being organised nationally so you can participate.

**PERSONAL VIGIL:** If you are unable to get to a group vigil there will be a downloadable poster for you to stick in your window.

**TWITTER** – for fellow tweeters the following hashtag has been set up #NHSvigil

**GMB MEMBERSHIP** - GMB members in the Health Service include Nurses, Medical Admin Staff, Ambulance and Paramedic Crew Workers, District Nurses, Porters, Theatre Staff, Domestic Staff, Kitchen Staff. NHS Staff across all grades can join the GMB.

GMB membership costs are a minimum; full-time workers can join for £2.60 a week or any one working less than 20 hours can join for £1.45.

Join online at [www.gmb.org.uk/join](http://www.gmb.org.uk/join)

**GMB**  
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