

IT'S BREAKING POINT FOR THE NHS

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It is shocking that healthcare workers are so outraged by their treatment that they feel it necessary to strike; that it was just four hours shows the concern they have for their patients.

Jeremy Hunt's gross insensitivity was made apparent when he suggested that if health workers were paid the small recommended increase, it would result in staff redundancies.

What is clear is that the Government has squandered millions on its chaotic health reforms; that it is undermining primary care through cuts to many GP budgets, and that the planned introduction of TTIP (Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership), is causing enormous anxiety through the expectation that it will lead to an even more broken NHS.

The NHS frontline works long shifts, sometimes 12 hours or more to ensure patients get the treatment they need. The Ambulance staff is under constant pressure to provide the best care in the shortest possible time and to avoid taking patients to A&E. However committed the staff is, they will reach breaking point when they can't afford to pay rent and feed their families.

We must all play our part in stopping the Government from undermining health workers and turning the NHS into rich pickings for global health companies. Londoners should write to Hunt - and their local MP - to protest that the NHS is valued and effective and needs to be enhanced, not squandered.

Malcolm Alexander, Chair, Healthwatch and Public Involvement Association