The National Petition

- Hansard source (Citation: HC Deb, 28 February 2012, c159)

Grahame Morris (Easington, Labour)

There is clearly no mandate, either in this House or in the other place, for these huge changes and massive top-down reorganisation. Some 162,000 people have signed an e-petition calling on the Government to drop the Bill, so may I remind the Secretary of State that his own party's election manifesto stated that

> "any petition that secures 100,000 signatures will be eligible for formal debate"?

Does he not think that it is time for us to have a full debate about the issue, to find out who is in favour and who is against and to drop the Bill?

Andrew Lansley (Secretary of State, Health; South Cambridgeshire, Conservative)

The hon. Gentleman, himself, was present at 40 sittings in Committee, during which his hon. Friend Derek Twigg, the shadow spokesman, said that the Bill had been thoroughly scrutinised. We have debated it; in another place they continue to debate it very fully and very constructively; and I believe that that will deliver us the right Bill for the NHS.