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Nursing and the Coalition Government

"The deficit reduction programme will take precedence over any other measures in this agreement" Coalition Agreement – 21st May 2010

Howard Catton
RCN Head of Policy

Emergency Budget; 22 June 2010

- Balance/timing of spending (cuts) and taxation (increases); 77% v 23%
- Welfare to be cut by £11bn, NHS and international aid "protected"

"**It is my deeply held belief that a genuine and long-lasting economic recovery must have its foundations in the private sector. That is where the jobs will come from – and we will do absolutely everything to support their creation**."
George Osborne 22 June 2010

- Two-year pay freeze for public sector workers earning more than £21,000 and Fair Pay Review
- Accelerate the increase in state pension age to 66 and a Public Sector Pensions Review

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"A further way we can ease the pressure on public services is to agree that we need to restrain public sector pay in these difficult times. And we need to do something about the spiraling costs of public sector pensions. Many millions of people in the private sector have in the last couple of years seen their pay frozen, their hours reduced, and their pension benefits restricted. They have accepted this because they knew that the alternative in many cases was further job losses. The public sector was insulated from these pressures but now faces a similar trade off."

George Osborne 22 June 2010

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The Coalition Agreement

- "We will cut the cost of NHS administration by a third and transfer resources to support doctors and nurses on the front line"
- "Doctors and Nurses need to be able to use their professional judgement……."
- "We will refocus funding from Sure Start ……. to pay for 4,200 extra Sure Start health visitors"

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The NHS White Paper "Equity and Excellence – Liberating the NHS" (England)

Plus supporting consultation documents;

- Transparency in outcomes – a framework for the NHS
- Commissioning for patients
- Local democratic legitimacy in health
- Freeing providers & economic regulation

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- **Further White Paper related consultations**
  - Information strategy
  - Patient choice

  Awaiting

  - A provider-led education & training
- Health Bill in **? December 2010**
- Public Health White Paper and Social Care Vision late **2010**
- Professional regulation green paper
- Commission on Funding LTC – Andrew Dilnot to report **by July 2011**

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RCN response to the White Paper;

- Scale, Speed and Risks
- It ain't broke
- Pilot and Evaluate

- Nursings Vital Contribution
- Nursing is the Big Society
- Connecting Nursing to Outcomes
- Staffing Levels
- Seats at the Commissioning Table

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- Nursing Leadership
- Education Commissioning and Workforce Planning
- Workforce Issues
- The Future NHS: SEs/FTs/AWP

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18 RCN Assurances

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Comprehensive Spending Review

- Overall NHS real terms increase by 0.4% over the course of the review period
- £20bn efficiency savings confirmed
- £2bn for Social Care, £1bn from NHS Capital Budget
- Reablement and Integration
- 27% decrease in Local Government and £7bn in Welfare Cuts (plus £11bn) by 14/15
- Progressive or Regressive ?

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- 1:1 Nursing for Cancer patients and 1 week wait for diagnostics NOT to go ahead
- New Cancer drugs fund up to £200m
- 33% cut in the administration budget and reduction in the number of arms-length organisations
- Ringfence Public Health budget

"The NHS budget will have to stretch further than ever before in these difficult time"
Andrew Lansley 20 October

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ALERT: Weston Area Health NHS Trust considering closure of Hutton Medical Ward, 34 staff would be affected

Frontline First in your area:

England
Northern Ireland
Scotland
Wales

FRONTLINE FIRST

Protecting services
Improving care

In a time when large efficiencies are being made in the NHS, Frontline First empowers nursing staff to speak out against the cuts that impact on patient care, expose where they see waste and highlight innovations and new ideas.

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BLOG

TELL US ABOUT:

- CUTS TO JOBS & SERVICES
- WASTE IN THE NHS
- NURSING SOLUTIONS

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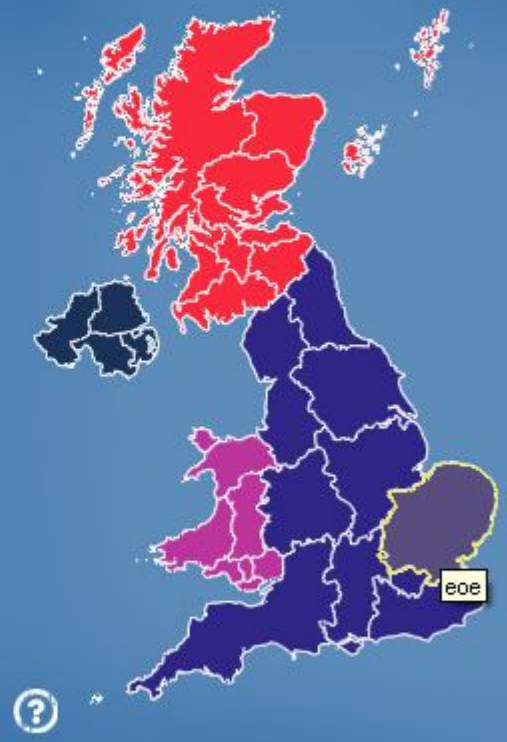

LATEST NEWS FROM THE FRONTLINE

East of England

- **Addenbrooke's Hospital** - 170 posts earmarked to be cut. (Part of Cambridge University Hospitals Trust) (Data reported on 27 June 2010)
- **Hertfordshire Community Health Services** - 43 posts earmarked to be cut. (Data from Trust cost improvement programme 2010/11)
- **East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust** - 105 posts earmarked to be cut. (Data collected as of May 2010)

Read More

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

TELL US ABOUT CUTS TO JOBS AND SERVICES

TELL US ABOUT WASTE IN THE NHS

TELL US ABOUT YOUR NURSING SOLUTIONS AND INNOVATIONS

Some (very) big questions

- Scale of increased health demands?
- Pressure on ‘ring fencing’?
- Public sector workers pain threshold?
- Can private sector deliver?
- Is it fair?

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