



Work in the Scottish Ambulance Service

June 2013

GMB@SAS

Working hard for our Members 24/7.

GMB TRADE UNION VOTES 'NO!' TO ATTACKS ON NHS WORKERS

The GMB Union rejects attacks on NHS workers pay and conditions and vows to fight to challenge NHS employers. The GMB union will ensure any proposals implemented are equality impact assessed. The GMB invite you and your colleague to support our efforts.

The GMB 'No' Vote next steps include:

1. GMB will be writing to each NHS Chief Executive asking them to seriously consider the implications of the cuts to NHS Staff and consider alternatives.
2. GMB will be meeting with NHS Employers to discuss how the employer will fulfill their responsibilities regarding the equality and fairness of NHS workers when cutting sickness pay allowances.
3. GMB will be keen to ensure KSF (Knowledge Skills Framework) is effectively used to assess NHS workers progression. Where employers are looking to develop local frameworks they should do so in consultation with the GMB staff sides.

Background: Back in 2009, NHS Employers tabled a 'pay enabling' agreement which the staff side nationally challenged and rejected. Many local staff sides have been in local negotiations with local NHS trusts to retain 'Agenda for Change' terms and conditions. Some NHS Employers have taken a view that the 'Agenda for Change' agreement is not fit for purpose and, in some areas, NHS Employers feel that the AfC agreement lacks flexibility.

On 26th February, the discussions on AfC concluded and the NHS Employers tabled a proposal for the staff side to consider and respond. The proposal will have a negative impact on your terms and conditions. GMB and few other union memberships rejected the cuts.

HCPC – Is there cause for concern?

As we have reported in a previous issue of The Voice, the comparative figures for the number of paramedics brought before HCPC Fitness to Practice hearings is higher than for any other group registered under the HCPC. In addition, the number of paramedics who are struck off is also higher than for any other registered profession.

Paramedics make up some 8% of the register but account for more than 27% of the total number of cases heard. More worryingly still, is the fact that of the 56 cases in 2012 resulting in a registrant being struck off, paramedics made up more than 30% of this total.

In 2005/6 there were approximately 50 HCPC cases involving paramedics. In 2011/12 that had risen to over 250 cases involving paramedics. A fivefold increase. No other registered group has seen such a massive jump in cases.

In 2011/12 some 51% of the complaints made against paramedics came through what is called "Article 22 (6)" and anonymous sources. The overall HCPC average for this method of reporting is about 31%. No other registrant group had such a high reporting rate under this Article. In these types of cases the HCPC may become aware of a complaint through newspaper articles or other media outlets.

Might it be the case that paramedics are more likely to be called before the HCPC than other registrant groups because we, perhaps, have a relatively higher public profile?

Even if this is the case, does it matter? After all, the HCPC is there to protect the public not the paramedic. It is, however, something worth thinking about isn't it?

Join online at www.gmb.org.uk/join



ALL NHS WORKERS CAN GET INVOLVED

Why Join GMB@SAS?

GMB@SAS is the fastest growing trade union in SAS. GMB@SAS is a campaigning trade union; its job is to get the best deal for GMB@SAS members at work and is committed to building a strong organisation in every service workplace, and so help make every workplace safer. Whoever you are, wherever you work: joining GMB@SAS is the right decision. Full time- Grade 1 = £2.70 per week (£11.70 per month)

Part time - Grade 2 = £1.55 per week (£6.72 per month)

Newsletter

Anyone who would like to place an article in the branch News Letter or our new web pages, please contact the branch secretary. Next Issue due out December 2012.

Discount Corner

Battlefield Select Tours

Visiting Battlefields of WW1 and WW2 with 4star service.
10% Discount to all GMB Members when booked along with there membership number.

www.battlefieldselecttours.co.uk

SP Services will give members a 10% on any purchase, just mention you're with GMB@SAS along with your station.

Visit the branch Web page at www.gmb-sas.org.uk or our members Facebook only page at GMB@SAS. If you or if you know of any member who still dose not receive emails direct from the branch and would like to be added to your Divisional mailing list, contact the branch secretary at john.david.marr@nhs.net

Ambulance Hardship Fund

Can I please remind you that we have a Hardship Fund for those members that fall on unexpected hard times?

The actual amount that a member receives is uncertain as all claims are assessed individually and all claims must come through the branch secretary, upon receiving the claim I will process it and pass it on up the chain.

If you hear of any member who you feel is in need of financial assistance please make sure that they are ok with this going ahead on there behalf as there is a number of personal questions and this could be very embarrassing for them.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me, but can I suggest that you phone and not do it by email as prying eyes will see this.

We also have a debt service which can be contacted on 0800 389 3302

Fleet

The charge-hands/planner who are G.M.B. members, employed by the ambulance service would like to take this opportunity to thank our G.M.B. representative for taking an active interest in our un-just loss of £3,277 per year due to the removal of N.R.R.P. and it refreshing to know that the G.M.B. are a union who are still there fighting discrimination for equality for our members.

Donald Montgomery
GMB@SAS Fleet Steward
Workshops Springburn

Rest Breaks

We are asking that both crew members fill in a datex for each occurrence and that they actually state what effect that time delay or missed break had in their health/stress at that time. For example light headed/nauseas/delayed response to decision making etc. It's not enough to record we have to start stating how it is having an effect on our health over a prolonged period of time. This data could be invaluable in the event of ill health at a later date.

Robert Pollock
Branch President
Glasgow South Station

Accident at Work Injury Line

Just call: 03333 216 219

Introducing a new way to report an accident at work, simple call the injury line!!

Free Legal Advice

Call 0800 027 2233 for free and discounted legal advice which is part of membership with GMB@SAS

Join online at www.gmb.org.uk/join

