



Lincolnshire Health branch

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The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
10 Downing Street
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August 9th, 2019, UNISON Lincolnshire Health branch secretary Elizabeth Lowe

Dear Prime Minister,

The last decade has been a tough time for public sector workers in the health sector. Trying to deliver high quality services while being plagued by budget cuts and so called efficiency savings. These cuts have had awful consequences for health services across the county of Lincolnshire. As budgets have been cut so too have staff and vital health services for residents.

We welcome the release of urgently needed money to upgrade the A&E department at Pilgrim Hospital announced this week but unfortunately this doesn't go far enough. The funding is just a sticking plaster on an ever-growing wound compared to what is needed. Serious staffing issues remain across the county and must be tackled urgently.

Statistics from NHS Digital reveal that between January and March 2019 there were 678 full time equivalent posts advertised at United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust alone. This has led to the overnight closure of A&E services at Grantham hospital while other services remain under constant threat. Services already at breaking point are at risk of being cut further, closed altogether or losing yet more staff. Dedicated public servants have kept health services running but now it's time to help them.

While UNISON wasn't made aware of your visit on Monday 5th August to Pilgrim Hospital I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to meet with me, NHS staff and local residents to see the impact of central government cuts to health services at Grantham. Friday, 16th August marks the third anniversary of the closure of overnight A&E services at Grantham which was originally called a "temporary" overnight closure. Grantham A&E closed overnight following "significant staffing issues" and concerns over patient safety.

What we need now is a fair funding formula for health services across Lincolnshire to ensure services recover from the vicious cuts of the past decade. Only increased funding for health services across the county will begin to repair the damage done by years of central government cuts to our health services and to the lives of those who work so hard to provide them.

Yours sincerely

Elizabeth Lowe

UNISON Lincolnshire Health branch secretary