

SAVE OUR BLOOD SERVICE



Our National Blood Service is under attack. For over 60 years a loyal, skilled workforce has collected, tested and processed blood, donated freely and generously by the public. Local blood centres have built close working relationships with every hospital in the country. Millions of lives have been saved by blood transfusions in surgery, after accidents, to combat chronic disease and in difficult births. You or someone you know may already have needed blood, or could in future.

Now NBS bosses plan to close local labs all over England in favour of just 3 huge 'supercentres' in Bristol, Manchester and Colindale. We feel this is part of a Government drive to save money by cutting public services. The reasons given for the need for these changes read like excuses. Directors have refused to involve the experienced NBS staff in planning a workable and progressive future for the Service. This is totally undemocratic and dangerous. Not involving experienced healthcare professionals in these kinds of decisions makes us think that they are playing with patients lives.

The centralisation strategy is risky and irrational. Blood stocks will have to be driven hundreds of miles around the country to and from the supercentres, on an already overloaded motorway network. There will be more difficulties getting the most rare or specially processed blood products to patients quickly. Important samples will have to be out of safe storage for longer. As part of the restructuring around 600 valuable technicians - about half of all NBS lab workers - are set to be made redundant and have their livelihoods slashed from under them.

Patients, unions, medical experts and city councillors have all raised the alarm in opposition. UNISON and Amicus both gave notice of intention to ballot their members for industrial action - never a decision taken lightly. Now, with mounting pressure from all sides, the NBS directors have been forced to announce that they will call a temporary halt to the reconfiguration while they review their costing figures and look again at the option of keeping local labs open. Now is the most crucial time for the campaign to Save Our Blood Service. In order to safeguard the services we provide, and to avoid unnecessary redundancies, we need to turn up the heat on the policy-makers even more.

We have to make sure they can't arrogantly plough ahead with closures and cuts to this vital service against the will of patients and health workers.

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- Campaign contact: iww.nbs@googlemail.com
- Visit the campaign website for more information:-
<http://nbs-sos.blogspot.com>
- Help to get the word out there by writing to local and national newspapers, posting on websites and blogs, and phoning radio stations. Speak to health workers you know in hospitals and surgeries about the proposed Blood Service cuts, as awareness is poor. Please make copies of this leaflet to pass on if you are able to.
- Sign the online e-petition and pass on the web-link :-
<http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/nbs-sos>



Thank you for your support.

