

Date: 15th October 2007

ALL MEMBERS

Public Service “Scandal”

Dear Brother/Sister,

FBU members in Merseyside may be forgiven for drawing their own analogies over the recent Healthcare Commission report over Maidstone Hospital and the C.difficile outbreak which caused the deaths of 90 members of the public.

The Healthcare Commission report found that there were nurse shortages and that the board had a “**fixation**” with meeting financial targets and that that “**fixation**” got in the way of making safety a priority. The report also accused the members of the board of not addressing the problems “**consistently raised** by patients and **staff**”.

Concerns over “**targets**” also played their part in this “**litany of errors**” as the board was “**pre-occupied with finance**”.

Kent’s County Council leader has called for “the chair and the whole board to resign” and MP Alan Johnson found the findings “scandalous” and was “shocked by the findings”. Local MP Greg Clark stated “**this calls for huge lessons to be learnt**”.

At the many FBU Branch meetings that the Brigade officials have attended lately, we are only too aware of our members concerns regarding just about every aspect of their working conditions within MF&RS and that our members could easily apply many of the findings of that report to MF&RS at present. FBU members in Merseyside will all be hoping that those “**huge lessons**” are learnt sooner, rather than later.

Yours in Unity

Mark Dunne
Brigade Chair