

David Bell
Chairman

A future fair for all

**North East Hertfordshire
Constituency Labour Party**

East Hertfordshire Rural Branch

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The Editor,
The Hertfordshire Mercury

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Dear Sir

Mrs M.A. Crowder (“Urgent care centre is a great addition to medical facilities”, *Mercury* letters, Jan. 20) is quite right about the importance of the Urgent Care Centre in Hertford.

This – and indeed the whole new hospital – is a result of the investment in the NHS by the Labour government. To get more publicity for it, I spoke to the then chair of our Primary Care Trust (PCT) and they circulated details to doctors’ surgeries. There is now a notice on the door of our local surgery and, I hope, other surgeries. You have also carried articles about it, notably last March.

There will be no more investment like this under the Tory-led coalition government. Furthermore, the Primary Care Trust will be abolished in 2013 and what staff remain then will be made redundant.

Their role in commissioning health care will be taken over by consortia of general practitioners (GPs), who will, no doubt, have to recruit staff to help them in this task. This sweeping change is being made without consultation having taken place and in spite of the Prime Minister’s pre-election assurance that there would be no re-organization of the NHS.

Many in the NHS predict chaos. One Tory MP, who is a GP, has said that it feels like someone has tossed a grenade into the NHS. The chair of the Royal College of General Practitioners points out a much simpler and cheaper way of giving GPs a bigger role – just increase the number of them on the boards of PCTs.

However, that would not open the door to the commercial take-over of GP consortia, which is clearly the underlying aim of the government.

Yours faithfully

David Bell
Chairman
East Herts Rural Branch Labour Party

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