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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**GSD jumps on bandwagon to scaremonger**

The GSD Opposition has been quick to try to jump onto a small and dubious bandwagon in supporting allegations by a legal firm purportedly representing some GHA contract workers against UNITE the Union and the GHA, and without being aware of the details.

The GHA and the Government have ongoing discussions on many issues, including employment issues, with UNITE, and matters are continually being discussed, but there has not been, nor is there expected to be, any reduction in staffing levels or competence. Nor have there been any problems in retaining or recruiting staff. Reference to a "continued exodus" or "cull" of staff is therefore not only untrue, but ridiculous. Nor have there been any "changes in working arrangements without consultation" nor in "skill mix" as the GSD irresponsibly claims.

This is scaremongering of the worst kind, trying to worry the public and undermine confidence in a health service that continues to improve in the quality and standard of its delivery. Suggesting that patients are placed at risk when there is simply no evidence to support this is grossly irresponsible.

Employment issues will continue to be on the agenda of discussions with UNITE, with the long term interests of patients and staff always being paramount.