

HC/68/07

To: All Health Branches

12 June 2007

Dear Colleague

**IT'S FULL STEAM AHEAD FOR A NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION
TO SUPPORT THE NHS ON SATURDAY, 13 OCTOBER 2007**

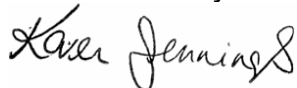
I am writing to alert you to an important date for your diary this autumn. As part of UNISON's Keep the NHS Working campaign, we have identified Saturday, 13th October to hold a national demonstration in support of the NHS.

Building on the successes of our Keep the NHS Working and NHS Together campaigns, the demonstration will be the focus of a public display of celebration and solidarity for an NHS that is still largely owned and run by the public sector. It will send a strong message to the government that we want to keep it that way.

We are calling on our colleagues in the NHS Together alliance of unions, our supporters from a broad coalition of user, patient and community groups and on ordinary members of the public, to join with us to make the demonstration a brilliant success. We need a strong show of support for our campaign and encourage every one of our branches to support the demonstration. We must continue to resist the government's obsession with handing over our NHS to the private sector. Over the past two years we have led a high profile campaign calling on the government to re-think its policies of private sector involvement in NHS provision, to consult fully with staff, patients and stakeholders at all levels, and to halt the measures that are fragmenting the NHS.

There must be no let-up in our campaigning over the coming months as we build momentum toward our National Demonstration on Saturday, 13th October. Plans for the event are being developed and details of the venue will be notified to you as soon as possible. In the meantime, please do all you can to raise awareness amongst your members, your links with local campaign networks and supporters to encourage as many people as possible to support the national demonstration and help us to make it a day to remember. Regular updates and progress reports on arrangements for the event will be mailed to branches and posted on the web.

Yours sincerely



Karen Jennings
Head of Health