

## Letter-writing guide for the public

Your voice matters to the local press. Local papers have always depended on good letters from their readers and the chances of getting into print are far higher than they would be for a national paper: the key is to address local health issues.

We've put together a [model letter](#) which you are free to use, but if you want to write your own then remember to keep it short (under 250 words), to the point and – above all – reflecting the true feelings you have. Wherever possible, refer to a local health issue that is of interest. There will always be something, ranging from a threatened closure to handing out of services to a private company, or a local hospital struggling financially. Refer to that as a key point, relating it to the NHS Bill as a solution and future protection against further privatisation and loss of services with no local accountability.

Other points you might want to stress could be chosen from:

- The NHS is being broken up and given increasingly to private companies.
- This is being proclaimed as 'patient choice' when in fact choices are disappearing for most people as budgets are tightened even further.
- The NHS has been shown to be the most efficient way of rationing health care in the face of ever-increasing demand, so that people who need help the most get it in the fairest way and do not have to face the nightmare of not being able to afford it. Which is the reality in the USA, which is the model we are being dragged towards in the name of 'efficiency'.
- Changes to the law brought us to this. Only a further change to the law can stop the damage.
- The NHS Bill 2015 will restore the NHS to its founding principles, stop the effects of 'marketization' and breaking up, and protect the NHS from future attacks.
- Your own MP or other candidates for the election might have said something about the NHS Bill already – check on: <http://www.nhsbill2015.org/responses>. If they haven't, write to them and ask: <http://www.nhsbill2015.org/take-action>. Then you can either include their reply in your letter (but again, only a few dozen words) – or say they haven't responded.
- You can choose from other points about the NHS Bill from the list on: <http://www.nhsbill2015.org/the-bill>.

For a guide to the local press, see <http://www.nhsbill2015.org/resources/>.