PE1495/T

Petitioner Email of 28 January 2014

Please find attached a very important document that I think should go on the petition website.

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmselect/cmpubacc/477/477.pdf

This is the very recently published House of Commons Committee of Public Accounts Report on Confidentiality Clauses and Special Severance Payments.

This document has of course specific relations to my petition and it is extremely relevant given that the Westminster government are also just now scrutinising closely the issue of confidentiality clauses/severance payments and their misuse across the public sector. e.g. Section 4 of the report's recommendations starts with the sentence **'Confidentiality clauses have been used in compromise agreements to cover up failure'**, etc...

Petitioner Email of 26 January 2014

Another article in today's Independent for the committee's attention (the media I am glad to say are beginning to really wake up to the seriousness and extent of this problem!);

http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/health-news/hung-out-to-dry-scandal-of-the-abandoned-nhs-whistleblowers-2306262.html

It is important that all such articles that pertain to NHS gagging that I am providing you with are added to the argument for my petition calling for outright ban on confidentiality clauses.

Also, can the public petitions committee ask how many successful Public Interest Disclosures (PIDA) there have been by workers in the Scottish NHS since the inception of the PIDA in 1998? This figure should provide a stark and vivid picture of whether negative events that effect patient care and safety are being brought to the attention of the media and the public or not? This figure will have a strong bearing on my petition.

We cannot begin to cure our NHS unless we know what has been going wrong in it. If such stories of wrong-doing are being 'covered-up' by gagging clauses and compromise agreements and this is being funded by millions of pounds of public money then there is surely a much greater problem that the public are not aware of?