I am so glad the nurse in the feature decided to speak out. It takes great courage. It has made me feel better by knowing others feel as strongly as I do.

Emma Marie Hughes by email

SHAREHOLDER-DRIVEN PRIVATE PROVIDERS DISCREDIT THE NHS

‘NHS 111 is failing’, say the media. What it does not point out is that 111 is a privatised service run by Care UK.

To save money, 111 uses fewer clinicians than its predecessor NHS Direct. This point illustrates why it does matter who provides services. Private firms fail patients, putting shareholders’ interests above those of patients. Private companies hide behind the NHS logo, yet provide a poor service. People blame the NHS, and the government says the answer is to privatisate more. So patients get an even worse deal.

The NHS is not perfect, and under this government patient satisfaction levels have fallen, but repeatedly it is shown to be one of the fairest, most efficient and cost-effective health services in the world. We should be telling people the truth about where their care is coming from, and why this matters.

Karen Chilver, palliative care clinical nurse specialist, London non-emergency care

HEALTH PROMOTION IS AN AREA OF PRACTICE THAT IS OFTEN NEGLECTED

With a tax being introduced on sugary drinks, the importance of the nurse’s role in health promotion has been highlighted.

I am a first-year nursing student and while on placement I witnessed a woman having a pre-operative assessment who had developed type 2 diabetes solely through ignorance about a healthy diet.

Last year, the RCN published a document on health promotion and stated it is a nurse’s duty to support clients to improve their health through lifestyle changes.

It is likely the proposed levy on soft drinks will influence consumer decisions to buy fizzy drinks. When Mexico introduced a 10% tax on these products, consumption fell by 6%.

With poor staffing levels encountered by the NHS, the question of health promotion is seen as secondary.

The World Health Organization has advocated that countries improve health promotion, although, unfortunately, the NHS has set no guidelines on the matter, so I urge nurses to introduce standards to their practice.

Genevieve Elliott, by email

WHERE WERE NURSES’ PROTESTS AGAINST CRUEL BENEFITS CUTS?

I have watched despondent as the lives of the poor, frail and vulnerable people in our country become even more helpless... from the imposition of junior doctors’ contracts to Conservative MPs cravenly voting for cuts in disability payments.

I am truly disheartened that there was no post-Budget outcry from nurses. Nurses did not create a storm of anger against unjust and cruel government plans.

I felt mortified when I read that several Conservative MPs had condemned the proposed cuts to personal independence payments.

Why didn’t the RCN condemn these, or make a strong statement to describe how they would have threatened independent living for thousands?

Zeba Arif, chair of the RCN forensic nursing forum

ON WALES’ CHIEF NURSE JEAN WHITE’S COMMENTS THAT REVALIDATION SHOULD NOT PROVE TOO ONEROUS

I think this revalidation will cause a massive fall in nurses across the UK. The older generations of nurses will leave the profession I’m sure.

Joseph Saint Wood

If it shouldn’t be ‘onerous’ why do they want so much work and evidence from us just so we can keep our jobs?

Drew Payne

 Benefit of being a student is that I’m off uni/placement for the weekend, downside is I’m poor & have to work bank

HCA shifts

@PUNC14Julie

Day shift tomorrow and nights until Tuesday! But someone’s got to do it :) lovemyjob

#nurse

@MontanaT89

Off on a/l which is rather lovely, helped with a bit of family caring last few days & the next 10 days is about relaxing/packing!

@debscooper131

@EditorLDandMHP Nurses today work long and antisocial hours with no financial gain. How the culture has changed over the yrs

@NurseStandard

I remember working bank holidays when I was a lad – less work and extra pay. Now I guess it’s busy 365 and the extra pay’s naff! #nscomment

@EditorLDandMHP

Research is like a huge jigsaw that offers hope and changes lives… playing just a tiny part in that every day is amazing!

@Ruthulbert

Agreed @joan_myers we need to celebrate the great work that nurses do, #proudtobeanurse proud to work @NELFT

@Gemdrops26

Follow Nursing Standard @NurseStandard and join the #nscment chat on Thursdays at 12.30pm