Don’t just grumble, take action

In reply to the letter ‘Time to stand up and fight for nursing’ (Letters July 22) where are these nursing homes that allow care assistants to run shifts? Who are the nurses instructing care assistants in catheterisation? I am astounded these practices are even contemplated let alone happening! I can only surmise the health authority is unaware, in which case they should be informed immediately. The nurse is the patient’s advocate and must always do everything to prevent patients being put in jeopardy.

Managers of a home do not have to be nurses and many nursing home managers are the owners who deal with things like finance. It is the duty of the trained nurses in these homes to take control of nursing matters and ensure the patient is always safe and cared for properly.

I get very annoyed with people who criticise nursing homes and do nothing about whatever may be wrong. Don’t just grumble, take action.

Gladys Saw
Worcester

The power behind the chair

Nurse leaders seem to believe that nurses should rejoice because doctors in some areas are opting not to take the chair of primary care groups (News July 22). This shows doctors have a more sophisticated view of power than nurses do.

Doctors’ leaders insisted that they should make up the majority of the board membership and have the right to choose a doctor as chair. If they then decide not to take the chair, then the nurse or social worker who does is only able to because the doctors have ‘allowed’ it.

Doctors have realised that being chair will involve a lot of work and are, therefore, ‘delegating’ the task. Similarly, they know it is not to take the chair, then the nurse or social worker who does is only able to because the doctors have ‘allowed’ it.

Patients deserve nurses’ respect

I agree with Lord Stoddart of Swindon (Sidelines July 15) that no patient should be addressed by their first name. The reason can be that more than one person could share the same name, and the