

COUNCILLOR PAUL BELL | PRESS RELEASE

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Cllr Paul Bell congratulates colleagues on the Greenwich Scrutiny Committee who declined to endorse Greenwich CCG's decision to give NHS contract to failed private hospital provider

“As a member of Lewisham Healthier Communities Scrutiny Committee, I was very pleased to hear that council colleagues on the Greenwich Scrutiny Committee, this week declined to endorse the award by Greenwich CCG of musculoskeletal contract to discredited private company, Circle,” said Cllr Paul Bell. “As a Lewisham councillor, I am very concerned about this contract because it impacts on the finances and clinical staff of Lewisham and Greenwich Trust and therefore Lewisham Hospital.”

“The NHS is not for privatising, yet this message has not got through to Greenwich CCG. “Time and time again, residents of Lewisham and Greenwich have said they want the NHS to be run by the NHS, not profit-making non-entities who can sacrifice care for shareholder value.”

Despite a very well-coordinated bid from NHS providers, Greenwich CCG have given Circle the “prime contractor” situation where-by they would hold all the cards, passing on any risks to the NHS providers. The biggest hit would be Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust.

“The NHS has saved my life. It is slowly being taken away from us. Greenwich CCG are clearly working on behalf of the very people who want a private healthcare system, not the NHS,” concluded Cllr Bell.

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For further information:

Greenwich CCG statement: <http://www.greenwichccg.nhs.uk/News-Publications/news/Pages/New-provider-for-our-Musculoskeletal-service.aspx>

Circle Healthcare & failed contracts: <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2015/jan/09/hinchingbrooke-hospital-special-measures-cqc-report>

What are musculoskeletal services:

<https://www.uclh.nhs.uk/ourservices/servicea-z/intmed/imm/Pages/Home.aspx>