

London public service unions statement on privatisation

The trade unions representing London's public service workers recognise that the drive towards even greater involvement of the private sector in the areas where our members are employed represents a massive threat to the infra-structure and services that Londoners rely on day in and day out.

We know from the massive public opposition to the plans to part-privatise the tube network that Londoners are aware of just what is at stake. The threat from privatization through PFI, PPP, "Best Value", market testing and the like now cuts right across every sector of the services that are the lifeblood of the Capital.

At a time when Londoners are being driven out of the Capital by rocketing housing costs, the sense of insecurity from the threat of privatisation, combined with the policy of asset stripping land and buildings, is hastening the flight of skills away from this City.

London's public service unions will not stand by as individual hospitals, schools and services are picked off by the private sector. We will act together to defeat the threat of privatisation. Our plan includes:

1. Total opposition to privatisation and support for the return to public ownership of privatised services.
2. Solidarity with workers and service users engaged in campaigns against privatisation. We will not leave any sector to fight in isolation.
3. Exposure of the private companies seeking involvement in the public services to detailed scrutiny.
4. Disclosure of the full financial facts behind the transfer of public services to the private sector and the cost to the taxpayer.
5. High profile political and industrial pressure at every level in London to force back the privatisation agenda.
6. Joint union campaigning across London designed to maintain and extend the public opposition to privatisation.

Privatisation threatens to tear the heart out of London's services and to bankrupt what remains. The implications for both the public, and the staff who make London tick, are horrific. London's public service unions will work with Londoners to overturn the menace of privatisation and to keep public services public.