

PRESS RELEASE



News from Keep Our NHS Public campaign www.keepournhspublic.com

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Michael Moore's new film raises fears for the NHS, say campaigners

In the week of the release of *Sicko*, the latest offering from the provocative American film maker Michael Moore, **[Insert location ie brighton]** health campaigners are calling for confirmation from local NHS managers that these companies will not be used to plan and organise services in this area.

Sicko, likely to be another box office hit for Moore, is a withering attack on the inhumanity of the American health system, where patients have to buy their own health insurance and pay for their care, and many are left desperate and without essential treatments. It puts the spotlight on some of the awful practices used by the insurance firms to get out of paying for patients' care.

But members of campaign group **[insert location]** Keep Our NHS Public are warning that scenes from *Sicko* could soon be repeated in the UK, because of the government's decision to bring some of the very companies named by Michael Moore in to the heart of the NHS.

This month the Department of Health unveiled a list of approved companies that it wants to see take over the role of 'commissioning', or buying healthcare for local people. On the list are American giants like United Health, Humana, Aetna and Health Dialog Services. These companies will gain control over which treatments patients receive and who provides them.

[Insert location] Keep Our NHS Public is calling on **[insert name of local PCT]** not to outsource this crucial work to the private sector, but instead to keep it public and accountable.

[Insert name of local activist] of Keep Our NHS Public said:

"*Sicko* shows how bad the American healthcare system really is. It's heart wrenching to see the plight of desperate people who have been let down by the giant health insurance companies, which are only interested in profits.

"It's astonishing to see our government doing deals with the same companies to bring them in to the NHS. If we don't stand up and stop the gradual privatisation of the NHS, then what we see in *Sicko* is what we are in for here."

Sicko opens at the **[insert name of cinema]** on **[insert date]**

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