

Rt Hon Andrew Lansley CBE MP
Secretary of State for Health
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The N.F.O.P is a voluntary body that campaigns on behalf of members of occupational pension schemes. We are the oldest and largest occupational pensioner organisation in the UK, with over 86,000 members nationwide. We campaign on a wide range of policy areas affecting our members and the lives of older people in general, such as pensions, poverty, care and transport.

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) report, published yesterday, showed that less than half of NHS hospitals are currently meeting the standards of care required by law. The highly critical report highlighted that elderly people are often treated poorly, with staff showing them a lack of compassion and respect. The report confirms what many older people's organisations had already suspected – that the elderly are marginalised by the NHS and not treated with the dignity that they deserve.

I am deeply concerned by the findings of the report, and I feel it is time that the Government takes action to make elderly patients a priority. Ministers and NHS leaders have historically wrung their hands and expressed regret, and have agreed how awful it is. Yet despite promising changes the issue of the NHS treatment of the elderly is constantly kicked into the long grass. Nothing is done. Meanwhile, many older people and their families suffer terribly.

Who will be held accountable for the appalling treatment of older people amounting to gross negligence and abuse, and what action will be taken against them?

Roger Turner
General Secretary