

Labour and the NHS

SIR - Today Sir Robert Francis will publish his report on the bullying of whistle-blowers in the NHS. This is a deep-seated cultural problem in our health service which has its roots in the last Labour government's obsessive pursuit of national targets and favourable headlines.

As patient safety campaigners, we have first-hand experience of the stonewalling, slander and silencing that whistle-blowers faced from managers and politicians determined to hit targets and suppress bad news in that era.

Many problems remain, but the current Government is confronting them and attempting to deal with the rotten culture it inherited, making real progress on patient safety.

We have seen no evidence that Labour has learnt the lessons from presiding over this toxic bullying culture. The party can not be trusted to run the NHS again. Labour would take the NHS back to the days of cover-up and denial about poor care, putting patients' lives at risk.

Julie Bailey

Founder, Cure the NHS

Deb Hazeldine

Carl Hendrickson

Liza Brady

Daily Telegraph February 2015