I would like to submit that from personal experience, I do not trust the NHS board to make decisions in the public interest, nor do I trust them to be open and honest and above board.

When the Centre for Integrative Care ward was under threat and I participated in the campaign to keep it open. Having attended meetings with a member of the board, it was obvious right from the start that she had her plans and nothing anyone said or did was going to change that.

Former and current patients gave excellent examples as to why closing the ward would be detrimental to many people's health and she wasn't interested in anyone's views. Nor did she have any empathy for the distress that was caused by her proposals and she was not prepared to listen to any argument. Meetings held between the same board member and staff were abysmal failures as once again she would not take on board any arguments put forward.

Meetings with other members of the board were postponed or cancelled. MSP's were denied access for visits and on writing to the chairman myself, was sent a pathetic reply which did not address any of the points I had raised. As a result, and which was predicted by all concerned parties, the proposals went ahead and the ward closed. The alternative arrangements now put in place are no substitute for the benefits of being in the ward.

To my mind everything was already decided behind closed doors, any public consultation was a waste of everyone's time and the decision was definitely not in the public interest.

If all decisions in the NHS are dealt with in the same manner, it's small wonder the NHS is almost on its knees.

I hope that some of what I've said will be taken on board and changes can be improved on decision making in the NHS.

Joyce Harvie