

April 2nd 2013

## **Demonstration at Media City**

Early today, staff arriving at the Media City piazza in Salford encountered around 30 people, many dressed as patients and doctors, who were there to protest against the recent changes to the NHS.

The protesters combined song, theatre and banners to communicate their concern that the ability of the new clinical commissioning groups to give lucrative contracts to private companies may result in the back door privatisation of the NHS.

The government's figures for cost savings made by commissioning services from private companies were also challenged.

The protest ended with the NHS having its heart ripped out of it by a profiteering surgeon (who was asked to remove her face mask by security staff). She called for 'the Clinical Commissioning Groups to purchase services from the NHS to keep a holistic free service in the NHS' and the protesters challenged the government's figures for cost savings made by commissioning services from private companies.

The demonstration attracted the BBC's local news team and made the lunchtime and evening television news programmes.

The protestors included people from Stockport NHS Watch (38 Degrees), Keep Our NHS Public, Salford NHS Support Group and various Unions.