

**Citation for the 'Freedom of the Borough' award to Dr John Lister**

In April 2019 the Secretary of State for Health announced that the Government and NHS England were withdrawing their support for the Shaping a Healthier Future (SaHF) programme, which meant that the closure plans for Charing Cross Hospital and Ealing Hospital, first proposed in 2012, were finally dropped. This announcement marked a major victory in a long running campaign in Hammersmith & Fulham to fight the closure plans. A key part of that campaign was the work done by the Independent Healthcare Commission for North West London, which was launched in December 2014 and published its report in December 2015, exposing the deep flaws in the SaHF programme.

As a member of the Independent Healthcare Commission for North West London, John Lister oversaw the gathering of evidence that revealed the paucity of the business case that the NHS relied upon to close crucial hospital services for our residents. His research skills and in-depth knowledge of health services was crucial in the analysis of the evidence that the Commission received. H&F owe him a huge debt of thanks for the time he committed to the Commission, including giving up his weekends to attend public hearings across North West London.

The Independent Healthcare Commission was the channel through which the people of North West London gained a voice, with submissions of written evidence and via public hearings. John Lister's many years of researching and writing about the NHS was an invaluable resource for the Commission to draw on in ensuring the completeness of the evidence presented by the Independent Healthcare Commission in its final report.

John Lister has written and researched extensively on health services and health policy issues for trade union and other organisations for over 28 years. His PhD thesis (2004) was a comparative study of market-style reforms on health care systems around the world, a revised version of which was published in 2005 as 'Health Policy Reform, Driving the Wrong Way?' by Middlesex University Press. In 2008, to mark the 60th anniversary of the National Health Service, he researched and wrote a major book: 'The NHS After 60, for Patients or Profits' (Middlesex University Press), which is still the most up to date history of the NHS.

John Lister is a joint chair of the Standing Orders Committee of the National Union of Journalists and a member of the Medical Journalist's Union, the Guild of Health Writers, and the Association of Health Care Journalists (US-based), for whom he has helped edit a European web page.

The benefits of John Lister's work for the Independent Healthcare Commission for North West London will be felt for years to come by current residents and future generations. The closure of two hospitals has been averted and a national government policy, that would have had such a negative impact on the healthcare of Hammersmith & Fulham residents, has been overturned.

In recognition of these achievements, it is recommended that Dr John Lister be bestowed the honour of the Freedom of the Borough.