

# Welsh Lib Dems call for hospital chaplains to be paid by charitable trust

Posted: Fri, 19th Oct 2012

At their conference in Brecon on 13th October, Welsh Liberal Democrat delegates voted in favour of a motion calling for an end to public funding of the hospital chaplaincy service.

The motion, which was tabled by members of the Lib Dem Humanist & Secularist group, called for hospital chaplaincies to instead be funded through a charitable trust, with the £1.3million saved each year instead diverted to front-line health services. It was pointed out that the Welsh Air Ambulance service already relies on substantial charitable trust funding, and that such an arrangement for chaplaincies would allow the NHS to focus its limited resources on proven clinical interventions rather than on religious provision.

The debate was largely good-natured, measured and reasoned, with good points made on all sides. Encouragingly, at least one Lib Dem Assembly Member voted in favour of the proposal, suggesting a degree of support for secular views within the Senedd. Whilst the Welsh Labour Government has made it clear that it is not considering reforming the existing arrangements, the mathematics of the Siambr (Welsh Assembly) mean that Labour require opposition support to push through any measures. The charitable chaplaincy campaign can therefore now focus on calling for Welsh Lib Dem AMs to put forward the policy agreed by their members as part of any future negotiations over healthcare reform.

Anyone wanting to find out more about the Lib Dem Humanist & Secularist group can do so [online](#).

Campaigner Alan Rogers said: "The Charitable Chaplaincy Campaign operates in Wales since the Assembly Government of Wales is responsible for the NHS in Wales. The campaign is an informal network of supporters."

If you wish to help and be informed of progress with this campaign, please send your [email address to us](#) and we'll keep you up to date.

- [Share on What's App](#)
- [Share on Facebook](#)
- [Share on Twitter](#)
- [Share on Email](#)
- [Subscribe to RSS Feed](#)

Tags: [Public services](#)

## Related Campaigns

-

## [Keep public services secular](#)

Public services intended for the whole community should be provided in a secular context.

[Read More](#)

## Related Articles

### [NSS welcomes Network Rail decision to remove religious messaging](#)

Following NSS criticism, Islamic hadith calling for 'sinners to repent' removed from departure board at King's Cross station. [Read More »](#)

### [Regulator to investigate GP who led proscribed Islamist group](#)

Following NSS intervention, medical regulator says there are "potential fitness to practice concerns" over GP who led Islamist group. [Read More »](#)

### [Don't undermine secular nature of Remembrance, NSS urges government](#)

Efforts to make remembrance resemble a religious service should be rejected, NSS says. [Read More »](#)

### [NSS backs plan to decouple school spring break from Easter in Wales](#)

NSS says it is "increasingly anachronistic" to structure school holidays around Easter when less than half the population is Christian. [Read More »](#)

### [Resist calls for £50m a year for churches, NSS urges minister](#)

Churches trust also calls for churches to host NHS services. [Read More »](#)