

slashed, says the union, which has compiled a 'dirty dossier' of photographs that shows substandard conditions in many areas of the hospital.

"Privatisation has meant cuts in cleaning services so we should therefore not be surprised at the problem with cross infection. We have long argued that short staffing is undermining attempts to keep the hospital clean, says GMB senior organiser, Gary Smith.

"The issues around cross infection are complicated, but there is now a strong argument that contractors are profiteering where the local community suffers.

"We need urgent action and investment to safeguard the lives of patients, and rebuild the community's trust in the hospital. Only this weekend at the Labour Party National Policy Forum the Government pledged to review NHS cleaning contracts after strong pressure from the GMB and others, and we welcome this."

Web: www.gmb.org.uk



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Industry to train cleaners at Heathrow's Terminal 5

Asset Skills is set to be involved in the development and training of staff at the new Terminal 5 at Heathrow airport, it emerged this week.

August, so if you have something to contribute to the debate, or manufacture equipment or products that fit well into the hospital cleaning market, or provide a cleaning service to hospitals that you're proud of, do get in touch!

Healthcare: a Cleanzine Special Report

Our Special report continues in this column below under This Week's News section.

Yours,



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THIS WEEK'S NEWS

Union slams betrayal of NHS staff

Members of the Britain's General Union GMB, who work at Derriford Hospital, have condemned as a great betrayal, management's proposal to privatise hundreds of jobs at the

vandals because, until now, it has been permanent damage with no easy solution. It is also like a cancer, because once an area starts to be blighted, it seems to encourage more damage."

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Woolsafe opens office in Greece

The WOOLSAFE Organisation has opened an office in Greece. It is located in Psihiko, a part of Athens and will be responsible for representing the organisation in both Greece and the Greek part of Cyprus.

The Director for WOOLSAFE Greece is Dionysios (Dennis) Paraskevopoulos, who has worked in carpet and upholstery cleaning for many years and is well-known in the industry for the IICRC and BICSc training courses he has organised in the past.

The first WOOLSAFE training course was held in the Marriott Hotel in Athens earlier this year and 15 carpet and rug cleaning companies attended from all over Greece. A network of accredited carpet and rug cleaning companies has been established.

The following day an oriental rug cleaning seminar, covering both theory and practice, was held which was also very well attended.

Further WOOLSAFE training courses are planned for later this year, with Cyprus one likely location.