

Robert Kilroy-Silk writes...on Health Issues (MRSA in Hospitals)

*Note: This article was first published in the Sunday Express on 14 November 2004*

The Secretary of State for Health, John Reid, has a new plan. He thinks it's grand. He's very proud of it. The plan is, he smiles, to ensure that all our hospitals are clean and that MRSA will be eliminated from them in four years time. Four years! It will take him four years to get rid of the filth? Four years? He thinks this is something to boast about? Come on John, get a grip. This is appalling. It should not take him that long. It should be done next month, next week, immediately.

We should not be tolerating dirty hospitals. We should not be prepared to allow another 20,000 people to die unnecessarily. We should start cleaning now. What is stopping them? Why does anyone ever need to be told that the hospital ward needs to be clean and that hygiene is important in operating theatres?

An army of old-style matrons should be despatched to every hospital in the country now. They would all be spotless in a week.

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