

# Row over 'sex op' nurse

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MORE THAN 400 East Surrey hospital workers are planning a work - to - e from tomorrow in support of a sacked league who is seeking a change operation.

Staff nurse Roger Brown, lost his job at the Royal Earlswood Hospital, near Thimble, when he was pronounced unfit after a medical examination.

Several members of the General and Municipal Workers' union believe he should have right of appeal against the decision and the right to know exactly why he

was thought unfit.

A spokesman for Surrey Area Health Authority said Mr Brown's appointment depended on results of the medical. He added: "Since he failed, there was technically no appointment and Mr Brown cannot appeal."

The authority says Mr Brown had been working at the hospital for only five days before he was examined. Mr Nick Fletcher, East Surrey GMWU branch secretary, says it was two months.

Mr Fletcher said: "Mr Brown has a good record, with no disciplinary incidents, and he has an excellent report from his ward sister. What he does in his private life is his own affair as long as he has a clear duty record."

## Vehicles

"If he is dismissed in this way his career will be ruined. We want him to be examined by an independent doctor and to be given the right to appeal."

The work - to - rule will affect 15 East Surrey hospitals, principally Redhill General, the Royal Earlswood, Farmfield Psychiatric Hospital and Smallfields Hospital.

Said Mr Fletcher: "Van drivers will be checking their

vehicles thoroughly every time they go out and none of our members will work on private wards. At first there will be minimum disruption, but unless our demands are met it will get worse."

A health authority spokesman would not discuss Mr Brown's operation. He said: "People have operations all the time of various sorts and I would not think any particular one would necessarily preclude anyone from getting a job."

Mr Brown, a nurse for 12 years and "a man with a feminine streak," is hoping to have a sex change operation.

## Certificate

He said: "Frankly, I am very angry and very hurt about it all. I watched the doctor who examined me write NAD on my form. It means: 'Nothing abnormal diagnosed.'"

"I couldn't believe it when they said I had failed. When I consulted an outside GP I was told I was physically perfectly

fit. He gave me a certificate to prove it."

Mr Brown added: "I only went to the union for help because my colleagues at the Royal Earlswood were so angry about what happened."

"I did not expect the union to go so far. I am grateful, but in a way I wished I had not. In the end it is the patients who suffer and I am very sorry to be the cause."