

# MYTHBUSTERS!

## DURHAM UCU

### “THEY RULED OUT COMPULSORY REDUNDANCIES! THE FIGHT IS OVER!”

In fact, management very deliberately **didn't** rule out compulsory redundancies, even after hitting their first target and undertaking no redundancies this year. They **could** have, very easily, but refused, either to keep people scared or to look tough in their dealings with us (or both). Management are now looking at their second target, and may well threaten compulsory redundancies again. They've repeatedly chosen to keep staff in fear of redundancies rather than reassuring them their jobs are safe.

Either way, while the initial £15 million cuts have now mostly been made (through voluntary severance, cancelling vacancies, and not renewing fixed-term contracts, seemingly irrespective of colleagues' values to the institution), the effects of those cuts on those remaining is only just beginning to be felt. Already-stretched workloads are getting worse. Teams are being 're-aligned.' It seems that management sought to cut hundreds of roles **and only then** consider what losing those roles might imply.

We must continue the fight to make sure we aren't made to work longer and harder to make up for management's failure to value not just the staff they've pushed out, but those who remain.