

MYTHBUSTERS!

DURHAM UCU

“VOLUNTARY SEVERANCE (VS) WAS A VERY GENEROUS OFFER!”

We certainly know some people were very happy to take VS, and with the deal it got them. And to those people: congratulations, and best of luck!

But we know an awful lot of people only applied for VS because they were scared they'd be made redundant anyway, or because of the toxic working (or overworking) environments they felt trapped in, or because they realised management's assurances that losing hundreds of colleagues wouldn't result in an increase in workload couldn't possibly be true.

For those people, VS wasn't a generous offer; it just looked like a better option than the current or potential future alternatives. They were given a raw deal by management. The fact that the alternatives looked so unappealing **is entirely on management**. Management chose to sell VS through fear. They chose to offer no meaningful plans to ensure losing 10-15% of PS staff by cost wouldn't throw departments and divisions into chaos. They've failed to tackle workplace toxicity or workloads already at breaking point. When hundreds of your crew want to jump ship, it's because that ship is sinking.