

NPF Consultations 2022 Public Services Commission

The National Health Service (NHS) begun by a Labour government in 1948 is the best healthcare system in the world, one of the cheapest per head of population, and (unlike in many other countries) it remains free at the point of delivery.

The Conservative Government is underfunding the National Health Service and will make it, piece by piece, available for purchase by private healthcare corporations.

The personal experiences of many Labour Party members and supporters currently living in countries with Healthcare for Profit Systems, most notably the U.S.A., has warned us of the dangers of privatised healthcare systems.

The United States health care system is the most expensive in the world, but the U.S. underperforms relative to other countries on most measures of performance. Compared with Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, the U.S. ranks last. Even in Ireland you can be charged 100 euros to visit A&E.

Most troubling, the U.S. fails to achieve better health outcomes than the other countries, and is last or near last on measures of access, efficiency, and equity. In most surveys, the United Kingdom ranks first, followed closely by Switzerland.

The Conservative Government is seeking to destroy the National Health Service by underfunding and by making it available for purchase by private healthcare corporations. It is now threatening the NHS with further cuts and privatisation, while there is already a staffing crisis, and serious shortages of medical staff.

Privatisation has been ongoing since the '70s to dismantle the NHS piece by piece while retaining the name, to mask from public awareness.

We already have fewer hospital beds and doctors per head of population than many comparable countries.

Health care is now in effect being rationed and waiting lists allowed to expand. The temporary closure of services, such as maternity units and A&E departments, is now widespread.

The involvement of private organisations in the provision of NHS services and finances removes Governmental responsibility for the NHS. The underfunding of NHS services is being done to promote the privatisation of services.

Labour has always supported the NHS -

“The NHS is the envy of the world, for many reasons. It was set up to provide free birth to death health care at the point of need. It is vital that it is funded adequately, in a way which allows it to function to the benefit of all. This is the single most important funding issue facing the UK today.” (from 2019 NPF report)

“Healthcare should be universally available and free at the point of use. The core principles of our NHS must be upheld, with access to healthcare viewed as a human right” (2021 NPF report)

Labour must be unequivocal in support for the National Health Service and in outright opposition to any and all forms of privatization of the NHS.

We must commit now to vote against any and all forms of privatization of the NHS and commit to returning all privatized portions of the NHS to public control immediately upon forming a Government;

It is essential for the future of the NHS that funding is restored and wages for NHS workers increased in line with inflation.

Labour must pledge to invest in a fully funded and publicly owned NHS in order to guarantee free healthcare for future generations.

We must not accept donations from companies interested in outsourcing NHS functions.

We should now immediately launch a public campaign against privatization of the NHS and actively and vigorously support any current campaigns, including but not limited to, those being conducted by Keep our NHS Public, We Own It and similar activist groups; We should publicly support all NHS Trade Unions campaigning to return to and retain all public control of the NHS, including, but not limited to, any legal industrial action.

We must commit to repealing the Health and Care Act 2022 immediately upon taking office.

<https://nhsfunding.info/underfunded/is-the-nhs-underfunded>