

**Diary Note: SOS NHS Budget stunt and Petition hand-in to Downing Street with NHS staff in uniform and cross-party MPs (individual MPs TBC)**

**Date:** Tuesday 22nd March 2022

**Time:**

- 2.15pm Visual stunt around the budget with NHS staff in uniform
- 2.45pm Downing Street for photos (actual petition hand in appointment at Downing Street is at 3pm)

**Location:** Old Palace Yard Westminster and Downing Street, Whitehall

NHS staff and health campaigners from the alliance *SOS NHS* [1] will hand deliver their petition of over 115,000 signatures [2] to Downing Street. Their petition calls on Chancellor Rishi Sunak to deliver increased NHS funding ahead of the Spring budget on Wednesday.

Prior to the hand in, NHS staff in uniform and MPs will travel around central London on an open-top bus performing speeches. They will assemble at 2.15pm at Old Palace Yard for a visual stunt around the budget (to include red briefcases and Rishi Sunak masks) before marching to Downing Street for the petition hand in.

A full press release will follow on Monday.

**[ends]**

For interview, further information and logistics ahead of the day please contact Press and Media Officer for *Keep Our NHS Public*, Samantha Wathen on 0777 6047472 or email [press@keepournhspublic.com](mailto:press@keepournhspublic.com)

**On the day logistics:** Please contact Lewis Baker (Campaigns officer for Keep Our NHS Public) on: 07455219308

**Notes to editors**

1. <https://sosnhs.org/> SOS NHS is the largest coalition yet formed in defence of the NHS comprised of campaign groups, trade unions, health and care staff, social movements and civil society organisations. The coalition believe this money is needed to provide funds for urgent staff needs, tackle soaring costs for backlog maintenance and reopen almost 5,000 NHS beds that have not been used since the pandemic began. To stop the continued worsening of the crisis in the NHS, the coalition aims to persuade the Government to take immediate, concrete steps to relieve the crisis in hospitals, mental health, primary, community and social care, make a major U-turn and revise the Spending Review.
2. Petition on Change.org: 'Rishi Sunak: We demand emergency funding for the NHS now! #SOSNHS' <https://www.change.org/p/sosnhs-emergency-funding-now>