

Press release on behalf of *Keep Our NHS Public* for IMMEDIATE use

Biggest ever NHS campaign to hold key conference:

Representatives of over 50 organisations to meet in London this Saturday

On Saturday 12th November *SOS NHS* [1] will hold it's first conference in central London [2] where campaigners will join forces with NHS staff to demand immediate emergency funding to tackle the most pressing needs of the health service. They will put forward the need for long term investment to ensure sustainability of health and care, and a workforce plan that includes pay justice for workers. The conference is open to both in-person and online delegates. It's aim is to galvanise broad support for positive change by ultimately lobbying MPs and increasing general publicity around the immediate needs of the NHS and it's staff.

Last winter 50 organisations including several major unions, the *Covid-19 Bereaved Families for Justice* group [3], *We Own It* [4] and *Just Treatment* [5] joined prominent NHS campaigning organisations *Keep Our NHS Public* [6] and *Health Campaigns Together* [7] as well as health and care staff, social movements and civil society organisations, to form *SOS NHS* [8]. This coalition is the largest yet formed in defence of the NHS and is demanding an emergency funding boost for the health service. 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.

The *SOS NHS* coalition is seeking:

1. **Approval of emergency funding to end the NHS crisis**
2. **Investment in a fully publicly owned NHS and guarantee free healthcare for future generations**
3. **Fair pay for all health and care workers now**

Co-Chair of *Keep Our NHS Public* and retired Consultant Paediatrician, Dr Tony O'Sullivan said:

"This important conference will give staff and supporters new hope in the fight

to defend the NHS. We will learn from each other's campaigning, and discuss how together we can form a stronger movement to rebuild the NHS as a public service for all, providing timely and accessible healthcare to everyone who needs it once again. When this government came to power in 2010 the NHS was ranked the best healthcare system in the world. After 12 years under their management this act of vandalism has now resulted in the highest waiting lists we have ever seen, and the worst health outcomes. The NHS faces its darkest hour, it has been failed by politicians; it is now unarguably on life-support, and it's up to all of us to fight for it."

[ends]

Spokespeople are available for interview.

Contact Samantha Wathen, Press Officer for Keep Our NHS

Public press@keepournhspublic.com

or Call/WhatsApp: 0777 6047472

Notes to editors

1. SOS NHS: <https://sosnhs.org/>
2. The conference will be held at The London Irish Centre, 50-52 Camden Square, London NW1 9XB from 10am - 5pm. **This is a hybrid event, please register [HERE](#) to attend.**
3. *Bereaved Families for Justice* are a group of over 6,000 bereaved people by Covid-19 campaigning for lessons to be learned from this and any future pandemics <https://covidfamiliesforjustice.org/>
4. *We Own It* campaigns against privatisation and for 21st century public ownership <https://weownit.org.uk/>
5. *Just Treatment* is a patient led campaigning group fighting for the end of corporate power in our health system and a fully funded publicly provided NHS <https://justtreatment.org/>
6. *Keep Our NHS Public* is a national independent organisation campaigning for a well-funded, publicly owned and provided NHS and a National Care, Support and Independent Living Service www.keepournhspublic.com
7. *Health Campaigns Together* is the trade union facing arm of *Keep Our NHS Public*
8. Link to the organisations involved: <https://sosnhs.org/>

