

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

**Thousands to take part in nationwide protests against NHS crisis this Saturday in 'Day of Action'**

This Saturday, January 28th, NHS staff and campaigners from national campaigning organisation *Keep Our NHS Public* [1] will stage multiple events across England to mark a 'Day of Action'. [2] This emergency action has been called in response to the immediate NHS crisis which has resulted in unacceptable and dangerous delays in accessing emergency care and widespread industrial action by frontline healthcare staff.

Around 30 events will take place across England on Saturday, including street stalls, rallies and marches through towns. Campaigners hope to draw public attention to the reasons for this crisis and show solidarity with NHS workers fighting for better pay and conditions. Protests will include NHS staff in uniform, as well as a mass mobilisation of members of the public.

**Dr John Puntis, Co-Chair of Keep Our NHS Public, says:**

*"For the NHS, the 'winter crisis' is now all year long. As government choose to look the other way, waiting lists, delays in treatment, staff vacancies and ambulance hold ups increase. Each week there are 500 excess deaths related to difficulty in accessing emergency care. The first priority must be to retain and recruit staff, without whom no services are deliverable. Patient safety demands acknowledging the crisis we are in, an end to strikes through serious engagement by politicians with unions, and promoting a fair pay settlement not only for health workers, but also for grossly underpaid care staff. We stand by those on strike who are demanding not only pay justice but a long term commitment by government to invest in the NHS as a publicly funded and delivered system once again capable of providing first class care to patients, irrespective of the ability to pay. The future of our NHS is now at stake and the coordinated national demonstrations on 28th January are to give voice to our collective anger, and to tell staff: 'we understand why you are on strike, and we stand by you 100%!'"*

**[ends]**

Spokespeople are available for interview (subject to availability). Contact Samantha Wathen, Press officer for Keep Our NHS Public [press@keepournhspublic.com](mailto:press@keepournhspublic.com) or call/WhatsApp: 07776047472

**Notes to editors**

1. Keep Our NHS Public is a national independent organisation campaigning for a well-funded, publicly owned and provided NHS [www.keepournhspublic.com](http://www.keepournhspublic.com)
2. For more information on the Day of Action including links to local events, see: <https://keepournhspublic.com/event/national-day-of-action/>