

I am writing to invite you to the **launch of *The Rational Policy-maker's guide to the NHS in the Committee rooms of the Houses of Parliament* on 4th July 2023 between 5:00pm – 6:30pm (Doors open 4:40pm for refreshments). Please RSVP as we need to understand room capacity requirements.**

As you know, the NHS is in crisis – indeed this is one of the most important policy issues confronting the UK today. In response, a team of healthcare experts, strategists and experts in economics and finance from *The 99% Organisation*, *Keep Our NHS Public*, *The National Health Action Party*, and *Every Doctor* have produced a report, timed to coincide with the 75th anniversary of the foundation of the NHS, which sets out the strategic elements of a solution to the NHS crisis. In brief, the report uses economic modelling to clearly show that **without a well-funded NHS, the UK economy will fail.**

The event will be chaired by **Richard Burgon, MP** and open to cross-party MPs and Peers as well as selected policy makers and members of the press - do feel free to forward on to colleagues.. After introductory remarks from the Chair, the Report's lead author **Mark E Thomas** (Founder of *The 99% Organisation* and visiting Professor at IE Business School) will summarise the key findings of the report.

We will then open for discussion and Q&A with the panel which also includes **Professor Patricia Murray** (Professor of Stem Cell and Regenerative Biology at the University of Liverpool), **Dr Tony O'Sullivan** (Co-Chair of *Keep Our NHS Public* and retired Consultant Paediatrician), **Chris Banks** (Partner Banks Cannell LLP, Non-executive director Gateway Primary Care CIC and former CEO North West Anglia NHS Foundation Trust, CEO NHS Cambridgeshire and CEO Tower Hamlets GP Care Group CIC).

Mark E Thomas says of the report:

“There is no dispute that the NHS is struggling badly, but there is certainly dispute about how to fix it. This report shows that calls for further privatisation or introduction of insurance-based funding for the NHS are misguided: they would be harmful to the health of the UK population and they would cripple the economy. The route back to success is proper funding of the NHS coupled with increased investment in prevention and effective poverty reduction.”

A further short summary of the report follows. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please RSVP.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Best wishes,

Samantha Wathen

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A hard-hitting new report, *The Rational Policy-Maker's Guide to the NHS*, presents evidence and analysis to demonstrate that:

- The overall business model of the NHS is not only sound, **it is the best healthcare model yet demonstrated in practice in an advanced economy;**
- The current underperformance of the NHS is the inevitable result of 13 years of underfunding – **no healthcare system can withstand such levels of sustained underfunding;**
- **If the NHS is allowed to fail, the economy will fail with it** - the UK economy cannot afford *not* to fund the NHS properly.

*The report has been put together by a multi-disciplinary team of volunteers led by the 99% Organisation, and supported by Keep Our NHS Public, Every Doctor, the National Health Action Party and others. The lead author is [Mark E Thomas](#), Founder of the 99% Organisation, mathematician, strategist, author of **99%: Mass Impoverishment and How We Can End It** (a FT book of the year 2019), and a Visiting Professor at IE Business School. The other authors have deep expertise in a range of relevant areas including NHS management, senior clinical roles, economics and financial analysis.*

The *Rational Policy Maker's Guide to the NHS* includes results from a model which maps the inter-relationships between the health of the population and the health of the economy. It demonstrates how underfunding the NHS inevitably creates an increasingly sick population which in turn leads to lower productivity, and lower economic output. This results in less money being available for healthcare funding; and the downward cycle continues. A decade of this has been harmful; continuing with this policy would be a disaster.

The report shows that the funding required to return the NHS to its pre-eminent position in relation to other leading healthcare systems need not involve punishing tax rises or risk inflation. After a short period of re-investment, ongoing levels of funding in the NHS will gradually return to 8% of GDP; in line with – or in fact below – most other advanced economies. The report also demonstrates that popular 'fixes' for the NHS, such as insurance-based funding or privatisation, are certain to **fail** to deliver what is needed - either for people or the UK economy. Using this analysis, the report gives policy makers clarity on how they can return the NHS to the position of best healthcare system in the world. And it shows that far from being an impossible task, it is in fact completely 'doable'.

When the National Health Service was launched in 1948, it was arguably the single most important social development in 20th Century Britain, establishing a foundational cornerstone of this country's economic and societal progress since the end of the Second World War, creating a shining example of community cohesion and providing a moral beacon for the rest of the world. In the following 75 years, the NHS has cared for the physical and mental health of tens of millions of Britons of

every colour and every creed, truly from cradle to grave. It has led the way in world-beating pioneering surgery, tackled sickness and disease in all its forms and improved the life chances of the most vulnerable members of our society. It is an indispensable part of the glue that binds us all together as a civilised nation.

As the NHS approaches the 75th anniversary of its birth, the *Rational Policy Maker's Guide to the NHS* lays down a marker to politicians and policy-makers of all stripes, who have been entrusted with the future of this priceless asset, to rise to the challenge of safeguarding – in perpetuity – its survival as the world's most successful model of universal healthcare provision. **If anything is too important to be allowed to fail, it is our National Health Service.**