

Press release on behalf of The 99% Organisation and Keep Our NHS Public:

Hard-hitting new research shows that sustained funding of the NHS is essential for the future health of the economy

Report will launch tomorrow in parliament (please RSVP to attend)

*****EMBARGOED UNTIL 17:00 on Tuesday 4th July 2023*****

Tomorrow evening [Tuesday 4th July], a team of healthcare experts, strategists and experts in economics and finance [1] will present the findings of an important new report to key policy makers (Peers and MPs) from across the political spectrum at a launch in parliament, chaired by Richard Burgon, MP [2].

Access the EMBARGOED report *The Rational Policy Maker's Guide to the NHS* [HERE](#)

The Rational Policy-Maker's Guide to the NHS has been produced by a team led by Mark E. Thomas, Founder of *The 99% Organisation* [3] and visiting Professor at IE Business School. It is supported by organisations including *Keep Our NHS Public* [4], *Every Doctor* [5] and the *National Health Action Party* [6]. The report sets out, using primary modelling, how the economy and the NHS are inextricably linked, and how if one fails, so too will the other. The group, which is made up of experts in NHS management, senior clinical roles, strategy, economics and financial analysis, will share with the assembled delegates on Tuesday their findings that long term sustained funding of the NHS is essential for the future health of the nation's finances.

The Rational Policy Maker's Guide to the NHS includes results from a system dynamics model which maps the inter-relationships between the health of the population and the health of the economy. It demonstrates how underfunding the NHS 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. The report shows that a decade of this has been harmful and that continuing with this policy would be a disaster.

The report further demonstrates 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 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 research also highlights how 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, as they may have believed, it is in fact completely 'doable'.

Mark E. Thomas, lead author of *The Rational Policy-Maker's Guide to the NHS* and Founder of *The 99% Organisation*, says:

“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. If we do not take this action, both the NHS and the UK economy will fail; if we do, they can both thrive.”

Dr Tony O’Sullivan, Co-Chair of Keep Our NHS Public and retired Consultant Paediatrician, says:

“This important work cuts through false narratives undermining the NHS and myths about funding. The NHS model is not at fault but is being failed by wrong, expensive and dangerous policies. If political leaders are open to reason, this report will show them that the future of the NHS - and thereby the health of the population and our economy - is assured if it is restored as a well-funded public service, without private interests, built back on its founding principles once again.”

[ends]

Spokespeople are available for broadcast interview. Contact Samantha Wathen, Press Officer for Keep Our NHS Public (and acting press support for this initiative) by emailing press@keepournhspublic.com or call/WhatsApp 0777 6047472

Notes to editors

[1] The panel of experts include: 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)

[2] The launch of *The Rational Policy-maker’s guide to the NHS* will take place 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 and distribute further details.

[3] The 99% Organisation is an all-volunteer organisation dedicated to protecting and strengthening the UK’s social contract. <https://99-percent.org/>

[4] Keep Our NHS Public is an independent organisation campaigning for a properly funded and fully publicly owned NHS: www.keepournhspublic.com

[5] Every Doctor is a doctor-led campaign organisation fighting for a better NHS www.everydoctor.org.uk

[6] The National Health Action Party was founded in 2012 and campaigns for the preservation of the NHS and against cuts and underfunding www.nhaparty.org