

## **Response to Public Satisfaction Survey on the NHS - "An appalling act of state vandalism"**

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

Today's National Centre for Social Research British Social Attitudes Survey [1] paints an alarming picture of attitudes towards the NHS with just 24% of people now satisfied with the health service, and more than half (52%) dissatisfied. Satisfaction is at the lowest level recorded since these surveys began in 1983 across every service and within all demographics and socio-economic groups.

Notably, 84% of respondents believed that the NHS has a major or severe funding problem, contrary to the government's official line that the NHS is receiving "record funding".

### **Dr John Puntis, Co-Chair of Keep Our NHS Public [2] and retired consultant paediatrician says:**

*"The appalling state vandalism exemplified by the mismanagement of the NHS under the Conservatives is starkly reflected in the British Social Attitudes survey, with many citing delays in accessing care as a cause for their dissatisfaction. This was also the reason why the NHS fell from number one position in international comparisons in 2021. Before this, and when properly funded, the NHS model was consistently shown to be one of the best in the world. The cynical misleading of the public by spurious claims of record funding (which takes no account of increase in population, changing demographics and chronic illness) obscures the fact that the UK is spending around 18% less per capita on health care than comparable European neighbours. An increase to this level of funding would do much to improve NHS performance, while there is no evidence to suggest a fundamental change in model of healthcare would cost less or be more efficient. Neither can we expect greater reliance on a small and parasitic private sector to improve matters by filching NHS staff, cherry-picking low risk patients and hiking costs. The nearly three million people unable to work because of sickness illustrates how underinvestment in the NHS is now undermining the economy. Clearly, most people still support the founding principles of the NHS and want it properly funded through a fairer system of general taxation. The NHS model is neither out of date nor a failure, it has simply been failed by politicians who wrongly see health care as a burden rather than something essential to the welfare of society."*

### **[ends]**

Spokespeople are available for broadcast interview. Contact Samantha Wathen, Press Officer for Keep Our NHS Public [press@keepournhspublic.com](mailto:press@keepournhspublic.com) or Call/WhatsApp: 0777 6047472

### **Notes to editors**

1. <https://natcen.ac.uk/publications/public-attitudes-nhs-and-social-care>
2. Keep Our NHS Public is an independent org