

Keep Our NHS Public's response to the General Election Result

For IMMEDIATE use

In response to Labour's historic victory earlier this morning, health policy experts and NHS staff from national campaigning organisation, *Keep Our NHS Public* [1] offer their assessment of what this means, and what the new government must do to ensure a return to a well-functioning NHS that works well for all [2].

Dr John Puntis, Co-Chair of *Keep Our NHS Public* and retired consultant paediatrician said:

"Expectations are high, especially for those who have been directly impacted by the NHS crisis, not least the families of those who have lost relatives unnecessarily, waiting for ambulances or languishing on the 7.5 million-long NHS waiting lists. The NHS must be set back on its feet once more. For this to happen, health services must be restored in line with the founding principles of the NHS, and social care needs radical transformation. Today marks the 76th anniversary of the historic creation of the NHS on 5th July 1948. Labour should reflect on the ambition and boldness of the 1945 Attlee government, undeterred by record debt and the ravages of war. Now, just as then, a strong health service is a prerequisite for social and economic recovery – if we allow our NHS to fail, the economy will fail with it. For those who still persist in claiming that the NHS is a bottomless pit and needs reform not more funding, we remind them that under the Blair-Brown government NHS performance was improved by investing in staff and increased funding, allowing the NHS to be one of the best services in the world."

[ends]

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

Notes to editors

1. Keep Our NHS Public is an independent organisation campaigning for a properly funded and fully publicly owned NHS: www.keepournhspublic.com
2. Keep Our NHS Public have critiqued Labour's manifesto on health <https://keepournhspublic.com/labours-nhs-manifesto-not-fit-for-the-future/>