

**Press Release on behalf of Keep Our NHS Public and The Socialist Health Association -
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Major new exhibition on NHS SubCos to launch in London this Wednesday

On Wednesday 18th February members of campaigning organisations Keep Our NHS Public [1] and the Socialist Health Association [2] will launch a photographic exhibition exposing NHS trusts moving services, staff and property to private companies. “How come We Didn’t Know about NHS SubCos – Is this a sell off?” will be held at St Anne’s Church, 55 Dean Street, London W1D 6AF from 6.30-8.30pm.

This is the third in a series of exhibitions about NHS privatisation that been exhibited nationally [3]. NHS SubCos are private subsidiary companies set up by NHS organisations, such as hospital trusts. Trusts transfer NHS services, staff and property into these companies in order to save money. Historically, SubCos have enabled trusts to avoid VAT and to employ new staff on poorer terms and conditions than those offered by the NHS. Interest in creating SubCos appeared to be in decline. However, in 2025, in the face of growing financial pressures, NHS England Chief Executive Officer Jim Mackey called for all trusts to create these subsidiaries to make savings.

This time, all SubCo staff are meant to be offered NHS terms and conditions, while the tax loophole is under review by the Treasury. This raises questions about how SubCos are supposed to save money. Worryingly, the remaining options appear to be revoking promises on staff terms and conditions, using SubCos to sell off NHS property, or using them to attract private investment. Since the original announcement, NHS England has said it will consult on the use of SubCos and has called for a pause in the creation of new ones, unless there are exceptional (unspecified) circumstances.

Marion Macalpine and Jan Savage, health campaigners and creators of the exhibition, said:

“With this exhibition we want to draw attention to the risks that NHS SubCos still pose for staff and the NHS. The main ways that SubCos have saved Trusts money until now may soon be lost but, despite this, NHS England has stated that all Trusts should ‘normally’ create these private companies. A recent proviso adds that new SubCos should only be created if there is clear union support. This is not good enough: we see the proviso as a disingenuous attempt to undermine resistance and to distract attention from how SubCos might be used to sell off Trusts’ assets. And it will do nothing to stop potential changes to terms and conditions for staff in existing SubCos. New SubCos have to be stopped and the staff, services and property already transferred to SubCos need to be brought back into the NHS.”

Dr Tony O’Sullivan, co-Chair of Keep Our NHS Public, said:

“This photographic exhibition ‘How come we didn’t know about NHS SubCos?’ draws on extensive research. It shows how SubCos represent a further step in the privatisation of the NHS and sets out the implications for the NHS, its staff and, ultimately, its patients. Although some SubCos have successfully been resisted through collaborations between unions and local activists, the use of SubCos threatens to lead to huge sell offs of NHS services, buildings and equipment.”

[Ends]

Spokespeople are available for broadcast interview. Contact Samantha Wathen, press and media 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 and provided NHS: www.keepournhspublic.com
2. Socialist Health Association is a campaigning membership organisation that promotes health and wellbeing and the eradication of inequalities through the application of socialist principles to society and government: <https://sochealth.co.uk>
3. <http://www.marionmacalpine.org.uk/how-come-we-didnt-know.html>

The exhibition can be borrowed free of charge. To book, and to order copies of the accompanying informative booklet, contact nhssubcos@gmail.com.