

Spending Review 2025: Still Not Enough to Save the NHS

Press Release on behalf of Keep Our NHS Public, Just Treatment and EveryDoctor - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Keep Our NHS Public [1], in partnership with Just Treatment [2] and EveryDoctor [3], warns that the government's latest NHS spending review fails to meet the scale of the crisis facing our health service.

While the government is presenting its 2025 Spending Review as a bold new chapter for the NHS, the figures tell a different story. The proposed average 3% annual real-terms increase to NHS England's budget over the next three years - rising to £226.1bn by 2028/29 - falls far short of what is required to rebuild and modernise a system battered by years of austerity, chronic underfunding, and soaring demand. It is less than the historical average increase (of 3.7%) and half of what New Labour put in.

Despite claims that the £29bn increase will allow the NHS to 'get back on its feet', experts and NHS leaders alike have highlighted that this funding will barely keep pace with inflation, staff pay, and population growth - let alone allow for genuine transformation.

Capital budgets remain stagnant, leaving a £13.8bn backlog in essential maintenance untouched. Promises of investment in digital transformation and GP training cannot compensate for the real-terms erosion of healthcare spending since 2010. If funding increases had continued at historic averages, the NHS would have received an additional £423bn [4] - a shortfall that no amount of efficiency savings can replace.

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

"Labour's continued denial of the scale of this financial black hole risks prolonging the crisis. A focus on reform over reinvestment ignores the root causes of longer waiting lists, worn-out infrastructure, and exhausted staff. The UK continues to lag behind peer nations in health spending, with performance and morale in steep decline. Keep Our NHS Public calls for a full restoration of funding to rebuild a publicly provided NHS that meets the needs of patients and staff alike. Without real investment, there can be no real recovery. This isn't a turning point - it's a holding pattern. A 3% rise doesn't come close to restoring what's been lost. The NHS cannot be reformed out of crisis; it must be reinvested in."

Hope Worsdale, Head of Digital Comms and Impact at Just Treatment, said:

"Every day we work with patients who have had to bear the consequences of a decade and a half of chronic underinvestment in the NHS - from people who have lost loved ones to unacceptable ambulance delays, to patients whose lives have been put at risk by delays to urgent care. Whilst an increase in NHS spending is welcome, the reality is that the

announcements made in the Spending Review simply won't be enough to tackle the scale of the crisis facing our NHS, especially when billions of it will be funnelled away to private healthcare companies. What patients really need to see is sustained and significant investment in public healthcare, and an end to expensive and damaging outsourcing."

Dr Julia Patterson, founder and CEO of EveryDoctor added:

"This government came to power promising to rebuild the NHS, and the public desperately needs this to happen. With crumbling NHS buildings, staff morale incredibly low, overcrowding in emergency departments and millions of people on NHS waiting lists, the situation is an emergency. How then, can the chancellor justify a real-terms increase in spending for the NHS of 3%, which is lower than the average real terms increases we have seen over previous decades? These numbers aren't just numbers; these percentages don't just create lines on a graph. Lack of investment in the NHS over the past 15 years has cost many people their lives. We believe that every single patient deserves to be safe in the NHS. If Rachel Reeves agrees, then she will need to commit much more investment than this. Patients' lives should not be lost because of poor political choices."

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Spokespeople are available for broadcast interview. Contact in the first instance for all spokespeople - Samantha Wathen, Press Officer for Keep Our NHS Public
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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. Just Treatment is a patient-led health justice group campaigning for patients lives to be put before corporate profits: <https://justtreatment.org/>
3. Every Doctor is a campaigning organisation fighting for patients, staff and the future of the NHS: <https://everydoctor.org.uk/>
4. additional £423bn