

The United Kingdom – National Health Service

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From all accounts it would seem that the UK's National Health System is underfunded and incapable of delivering the proper health services. The political parties invariably use the NHS as their main campaign slogan "*we will provide more funding for the NHS*" whenever there is a general election looming; and there might be one in May this year. After all it is logical that the Conservative Party in full knowledge that they are likely to lose the next general election, will reduce taxes in the sure knowledge that this will hamstring a future Labour government.

Of course, this rhetoric is just nonsense as all the political parties have already recognised the truth about the NHS's dilemma. Let's take Scotland as an example: during the Covid virus epidemic, the Scottish government was handed £2 billion to address the epidemic and immediately a whole number of private 'Health Agencies' sprung up. As is normal, when a humongous amount of money is made available, a massive number of the top doctors and nurses left the NHS and joined those agencies for much higher wages. Then the NHS employed those agencies as they were short of nurses and doctors. Now let's take it to the next level: African and Indian doctors came over to the UK and joined those agencies to receive wages, which after a year, allowed most of them to return to Africa with £50,000 to £100,000 in their pocket. Of course, there are a number of dedicated nurses, doctors and specialists who remain within the NHS, but they are now in the minority. And that is the position today; only it is much worse as those Health Agencies who provide the majority of private doctors, nurses and specialists, have spread throughout the entire UK.

So, when we examine the true nature of the NHS, we often find that NHS nurses with only a few months training are



running entire wards and providing care. The days were the NHS provided a doctor or a nurse with 20-30 years of employment have gone. As soon as they are trained, they bed hop (excuse the pun) and work for a private agency. The word 'vocation' is gone along with the high levels of training which have all but disappeared. The days of a nurse rising through the ranks and benefitting from the knowledge, gained over many years from those above her, is no more. This is not unusual because this same dilemma exists within the Police Forces of the UK and other public

occupations. They are all undertrained and underfunded. The same applies to NHS doctors who invariably are drawn to the lure of much higher wages from healthcare agencies.

So, when you properly research the NHS, you find that it is actually paying well over standard NHS wages, sometimes as much as five times to employ a nurse or a doctor and even much more for a health specialist like a heart or a brain surgeon. In effect, the tax payer is paying for 'Private Health Agencies' through their taxes. When you are in business, and the NHS is now very much 'first and foremost' a business, you understand that permanent staff overheads on your

accountancy books is not as 'financially advantageous' as staff who are external to the NHS and privately contracted. Of course, you cannot now 'roll this back in' and all politicians find themselves between a rock and a hard place as they attempt to unravel the 'Gordian Knot' which they themselves have created.

Anyway, remember the slogan during the Covid epidemic, 'Stay at home, protect the NHS and stay safe'. The idea was that the average person on lockdown would not get infected and attend the hospital to spread the virus. What did that really mean: we don't have enough NHS doctors and nurses to take care of you, we don't have enough beds, we cannot afford the 'extra' huge costs of additional contracts with the private healthcare agencies who provide the bulk of our doctors, nurses and specialist consultants. It is all academic, as the population of the United Kingdom is now so large that the UK National Health Service cannot cope with the massive demand placed on its health services. The situation can only become worse and the UK politicians have no hope of addressing the dilemma – so, they will continue with the same narrative and treat the UK public like mushrooms: keep them in the dark and feed them a load of shit.

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