The NHS is being systematically and deliberately privatised (For an overview see [1-3])

The English NHS market is expensive, wastes clinical time and money, is bad for patients, and is failing [4]

The UK spend on health as a percentage of GDP is falling. We are spending progressively less on health as a nation and less than comparable countries [5]. (From 9% GDP in 2013 to a predicted 6.8% by 2020). In comparison France and Germany spend 11.5% and 11.3% respectively [6]. NHS funding has only risen 0.9% annually since 2010 but 4% is needed annually to keep pace with rising demand

Beds per capita is lower in the UK (3/1000) than Spain (3.1/1000), Slovenia (4.6/1000), or Germany (8.2/1000); and doctors per 1000 patients is lower in the UK (2.8/1000) than France (3.1/1000), Italy (3.7/1000), or Cuba (6.7/1000)! The UK was ranked 28/30 OECD countries for health in May 2016 [7]

Social care cuts are crippling hospitals and community care, with a reduction of budgets by 37% in last Parliament [8]

5 Things doctors can do to help the NHS


2 Join and help local NHS campaign groups: look at the KONP website for information. Local groups really value having doctors as supporters.

3 Write a letter to your local newspaper about the cuts to NHS services and privatisation, and cuts to social care which impact severely on healthcare.

4 Lobby your MP and others to support the NHS Bill [http://bit.ly/11pmoap] (which calls for a halt to the market in health services and an organising back to a national health service).

5 Organise a group of doctors to work locally on speaking out against NHS cuts and privatisation: Doctors for the NHS will advise and support on this.

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