

NHS in Winter Crisis - update

The dreadful state of our NHS has been very much in the news. Locally, despite the extraordinary work of our hospital staff, University Hospitals Leicester has been on Black Alert since January 1st. Routine surgery has been cancelled this month. There have been long waits for ambulances and patients are being treated in the corridor at A&E.

Why?

Beds – The UK has only about 2.8 beds per 1000 people in comparison with an average of 4.8 across wealthy OECD countries.

General resources - The NHS is ranked 28th out of 30 countries for healthcare resources, with fewer doctors, nurses, beds and medical scanners than most wealthy countries.

Money - Until 2010 the NHS received annual increases in funding in line with increases in demand (around 4% after inflation). But since then need has continued to increase while funding has increased by only 1.2% leading to deficits in NHS organisations.

Demand – Many factors contribute to a surge in need during winter but pressure is felt in NHS hospitals throughout the year. In the last week the number of hospitalisations in England has almost **tripled** (as it does at this time of year)

Staff vacancies - There are 40,000 nursing vacancies in England and staff shortages in many professions.

Many of these problems can be addressed through proper funding. The UK is the 6th richest national in the world. We can afford a good health service. We are calling for an emergency injection of cash plus increased levels of funding in coming years, restoring the 4% annual increases. **JOIN OUR CAMPAIGN TO DEFEND THE NHS.** Contact details below.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST NHS PRIVATIZATION
campaignagainstnhsprivatization.org.uk

(We meet: 3rd Wed of month, Leicester City Hall, Charles St 7:15pm)
canp@live.co.uk [@CANP_Leicester](https://twitter.com/CANP_Leicester)

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