

Funding the Future

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As [Polly Toynbee](#) has noted this morning:

The symbolism runs deep into the veins of the NHS. The government on Thursday sold off the NHS-owned company supplying safe blood plasma on which thousands depend. It was sold to a US private equity firm with a reputation for aggressive asset-stripping. Bain Capital owns Burger King, Domino's Pizza, Dunkin' Donuts and much else. Its predatory history dogged Bain's founder, [Mitt Romney](#), throughout the US election.

After contamination by brain disease variant [CJD](#), [sourcing plasma from UK donors was banned in 1999](#), so the NHS purchased its own supplier — PRUK — to regulate quality and safety itself. Campaigners fought to stop a sell-off to a profit-hungry business beyond NHS control. Alarming footnote: I rang the Department of Health press office to find out more, but instead of returning my call I was outsourced — I got a call from Bain's PR company instead.

Not only has an essential service been sold - without good reason - but even the justification for it has been sold.

Such is the nature of the [cowardly state](#).

We need the [courageous alternative](#).