

## The NHS is failing and the only people to blame are the...

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The Guardian [reports an interview](#) with Dr Katherine Henderson, the president of the Royal College of Emergency Medicine this morning.

As she has noted, pressure in the NHS is now so severe that it is breaking its “basic agreement” with the public to treat the sickest in a timely way.

She also noted that the:

*urgent and emergency care was in a “deeper crisis than ever before”, and for the first time in its history the NHS could no longer stick to its “contract” with the nation to promptly reach seriously ill patients who dial 999.*

Her explanation was:

*“The true barrier to tackling this crisis is political unwillingness,” Henderson said. “The current situation is breaking the workforce and breaking our hearts.”*

*Hospitals are facing record demand from patients coming forward after two years of the pandemic, while struggling to discharge patients because of the crisis in social care.*

*As a result, Henderson said, doctors are struggling to find any space for patients arriving at A&E. That is causing record delays in ambulances handing over patients, which is leading to waits of up to 22 hours for 999 callers.*

At the same time, as reported in the Sunday Times yesterday, moves are being made to end the separation of patients with Covid from other patients within hospital. As one hospital consultant, who is utterly committed to it, noted as a result, [this makes the H in NHS stand for Harm](#).

None of this, in my opinion, is the fault of an NHS employee. It is, instead, wholly the government's fault.

First, it has been utterly negligent on Covid. The Covid pandemic is not over. Covid is

not endemic. More than 350 people dies of Covid in one day last week. Around one in 12 people in the country have it. The illness is serious with potential long term impacts for many that are massive. And some people are getting it successively, within weeks of bouts. Despite this the government has turned its back on this issue, pretending it does not exist, when the impact is enormous, as indicated by everything from failed flights onwards. Irresponsibility on this scale cannot be made up.

Second, it has deliberately under-resourced the NHS, knowing that there is excess demand for healthcare now and knowing that there is a need for staff morale to be raised.

Third, it is under-resourcing social care still and has no real plan to change that, in which case bed-blocking will continue and that is now causing crisis conditions in many hospitals.

Fourth, it has no plan of any sort to remedy this because all it wants to do is balance its budget, which is the last thing it needs to do and which is wholly unnecessary.

In other words, the whole NHS crisis is government manufactured, deliberately.

What is required to solve it?

First, it's the capacity to care.

Second, there has to be the willingness to use the power of government to redirect resources in society.

Third, there has to be the willingness to fund this, which does require new money creation.

Fourth, there has too to be the need to create the social conditions in which people can flourish, which requires redistribution of income and wealth.

Fifth, there must be the willingness to explain this, and get buy in.

Sixth, there is a need for commitment, which is wholly absent.

These are desperate times. There is no guarantee the NHS will survive this. And that is all down to choice by Tory governments.