

## What brought us to this sorry state where almost everyo...

Published: January 13, 2026, 7:16 am

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As many sources note this morning, strikes are continuing. The ambulance workers' dispute this week will undoubtedly cause deaths, on which the right-wing media are fixating.

So, some questions:

- \* Who underfunded the ambulance service?
- \* Who has brought it to its knees due to failure to invest in A&E?
- \* How many people have already died as a result of this underfunding?
- \* How many more will die as staff in both services leave, unable to face the pressure of the job and their inability to make ends meet?
- \* How long is it before the government has to give in to the totally reasonable demand that public sector workers should not bear the cost of war in Ukraine, coupled to government dogma?

I am sure some more questions could be added to the list. My point is a simple one. What is happening is a systems failure created by persistent government neglect imposed on the NHS by a succession of Health Secretaries of whom the longest serving was Jeremy Hunt, now Chancellor.

I am quite sure no one in the NHS wants to strike. But they have no choice now. And yes, they do have an anti-government agenda, and rightly so. When the government has sought to destroy all that the NHS has done and could do for this country it is right to have an anti-government agenda.

But, as ever, where is Labour? Why isn't it right now an anti-Labour agenda as well as Wes Streeting appears no more sympathetic, or understanding, than the Tories?

What brought us to this sorry state where almost everyone but politicians can see what needs to be done?