



Funding the Future

Labour should not be attacking GPs unless they too are ...

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A couple of days ago Wes Streeting, Labour's shadow health secretary, attacked GPs, saying their finances are murky, in the process obviously seeking to blame them for NHS failings. In the process he threatened to take away the role they have in primary health care.

On Sophy Ridge's show this morning Starmer joined in the attack. I wrote this Twitter thread in response:

 **Richard Murphy**  @RichardJMurphy



Keir Starmer is joking Wes Streeting in attacking GPs for the self employed status they have enjoyed since 1947 this morning. Three things are deeply troubling about this. A quick thread....

09:12 · 08/01/2023 · [Twitter for iPad](#)

 **Richard Murphy**  @RichardJMurphy · 2m
Replying to @RichardJMurphy



First of all, attacking NHS personnel is really not wise in the current environment. GPs, like many health staff, already feel at considerable risk from angry patients right now. Having any politician fuel that anger is really very deeply unwise. I really hope no one is harmed.

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 **Richard Murphy**  @RichardJMurphy · 2m



Second, this flawed model (and it is flawed) is not the cause of problems in GP services. The problem is that even the level of earnings that this system permits is not enough to persuade doctors to take on the extraordinary workload and stress being a modern GP involves.

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 **Richard Murphy**  @RichardJMurphy · 2m



Making GPs into a wholly salaried service will in that case likely make GP services worse, not better. Salaried GPs are not responsible for managing the impossible workloads demanded of them: self employed ones have agreed to do so, and against the odds are trying to do just that

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 **Richard Murphy**  @RichardJMurphy · 2m

So what are Starmer and Streeting trying to do apart from finding someone to pass the back to? I don't know. But I can, with ease, predict that they're increasing stress in the NHS when that isn't needed, and are trying to break primary care which is essential to good health care

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 **Richard Murphy**  @RichardJMurphy · 2m

I obviously meant joint and not joking in the first tweet.