

Five quick reforms the NHS urgently needs

Published: January 12, 2026, 9:18 pm

Having said that bankers [should not advise the NHS this morning](#), I did a quick consultation with a retired NHS employee who was previously a member of both the Royal College of Physicians and the Royal College of GPs, and asked her for five recommendations on almost immediate reforms that could be undertaken in the NHS to improve the quality of service supply and to improve staff morale, which is absolutely fundamental to the delivery of success in a service organisation. I am, let's be clear, married to her.

This was her list:

- * End all car parking charges for NHS staff working in hospitals .
- * Provide high-quality food for all NHS staff rather than the rubbish that is now almost always made available.
- * Make sure that high-quality food is available all night for NHS staff when it is normal that at present night shift staff have no food available to them.
- * Make sure that the IT works, and that most especially there are printers available at every workstation that can deliver all the various kinds of labels that are still required as a matter of routine in the NHS.
- * Senior management should stop treating staff like shit. It really does not help.

You might ask where the patient features in this list, apart from having access to decent food, which seems to be fundamental to proper healthcare, and the answer is that they don't in the first instance. However, unless you have a staff who are treated well you can never treat patients well, and if there are five things to choose, then making sure that staff are in the best possible frame of mind to provide the services that patients need really is important. At the moment the NHS is a long way from doing that.