

Funding the Future

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The [Guardian notes](#) this morning that:

Keir Starmer has said it is “frankly beyond belief” that resident doctors would strike during the NHS’s worst moment since the pandemic, in remarks that risk inflaming tensions with medical staff.

No, it isn't.

What is beyond belief is that:

- * The NHS has been so underfunded that corridor care is now standard.
- * He treats increasing the profits of US drug companies as more important than providing care in the UK or paying doctors decently.
- * Thousands of doctors are unemployed in the UK, degrading the profession and the morale of all doctors.
- * The fundamental causes of ill health - from the corrupting impact of antisocial neoliberal capitalism, to the consequences of excessive interest rates on stress and homelessness, to the obesity caused by ultra-processed foods - are all left untouched by the government.
- * NHS England is being dismantled with total disrespect for the staff involved.
- * Scandals continue because of the use of perverse incentives within a so-called NHS market structure that burdens the whole service with costs, artificial divisions and false narratives, all of which prevent the delivery of real healthcare.
- * He continues to promote a growth narrative that alienates people who rightly feel they are expendable cannon fodder in the economic system he promotes.
- * He refuses to tax wealth to counter the inflationary effects of the level of spending required for the NHS.

All of those are beyond belief.

That sound-minded people of good standing and possessed of professional judgement consider that Starmer, Streeting, Reeves & Co. are the threat to the NHS is not beyond belief. That is a reasonable conviction.

Starmer's problem is simply stated. He has no credibility. His ideas are worthless. His insults are petty. He is supporting a corrupt system of economic management. And he refuses to address these issues.

Of course, the doctors are angry enough to strike. They can work out where the problems are and why there are excess deaths every day in the NHS, whether or not they are there. The failure is Starmer's now: he has to own it. And as he won't, they have to point that out.