

**The NHS was set up to provide an integrated universal public healthcare service as a right. Over many years the NHS has been gradually dismantled and privatised. Why?**



Over the years several services have been largely privatised or you have to pay for them. These include: ophthalmic/optician services; dental services, prescriptions

All governments since 1973 have bound themselves to successive EU Treaties. These require policies to be in line with the open liberalised single market where there has to be the free movement of capital, services, goods and labour. That means free competition which is now being fully applied to the NHS.

The 1992 Maastricht Treaty introduced the single currency with severe limits on public sector spending and government borrowing. These are 3% GDP and 60% respectively. Although Britain opted out of the single currency the Tory, New Labour and ConDem governments kept Britain in the penultimate stage of joining the EU and until recently stuck to the limits.

Brussels has stated that all EU Member States, including Britain, must reduce their deficits and debts back in line with the above limits. National budgets now have to be presented to the Commission for checking and approval!

Despite a mountain of opposition and sound advice the ConDem Government has imposed a competition policy on the NHS and cut real expenditure on the health service. Members of the millionaire's cabinet in Downing Street banged the table when Mr Lansley, the Health minister, succeeded in getting his Health Bill through parliament. This is in line with EU policies of the single market and thrust to handing every part of the public sector to privateers and profits.

Some hospitals are now in serious financial trouble because of the mad Private Finance Initiative (PFI) schemes whereby the NHS has to pay several times over for the buildings. PFI was invented to take this expenditure out of the public sector to reduce expenditure in line with the limits

for joining the single currency. PFI is a means to pass over the building to the private sector and make buckets of profit at tax payers expense.

Because of PFI many hospitals are now in serious debt and will have administrations imposed upon them. You can make a safe bet that this will be used to hand them to the private health companies after we the taxpayer cough up and pay the debt.

Everybody who uses the NHS knows there are shortages of front line staff including physiotherapists, speech therapists, midwives and nursing staff. Go into most hospital wards and you will agree nursing staff and junior doctors are over-working.

## What is the answer?

- The NHS must be fully funded.
- Take profit out of health and put patients first
- EU Directives on Healthcare must be ignored by rescinding the EU Directive which introduced competition into the health service.
- Make local health services more accountable but without being subject to competition.
- Take no part in the limits and criteria for joining the euro which is now like joining the Titanic.
- Stop paying billions into the EU Budget and instead spend some of this on the NHS



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