

NHS Funding: is it enough? Where does it go?

The Government keeps assuring us that the NHS is well-funded compared with similar OECD countries, and this is recently boosted by massive extras for top-ups and training. Maybe, though this is disputed by many. What they do not talk about is what happens to that money: for example, the years of heavy and increasing losses to expensive and unintegrated locums, agency staff and speciously rectifying management consultants. These signify the inevitable human inefficiencies that come from a marketised system that fragments, commodifies and bureaucratically depersonalises.

All of these are clear legacies of three decades of neoliberal reforms of the NHS. We have rendered ourselves a system that is humanly and financially unsustainable. When will we muster the clarity and courage to undo these misbegotten reforms?