



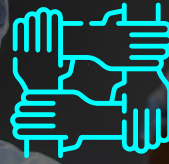
# THE NHS AND US



The NHS sees over **1 million patients** every 36 hours



**77%** of NHS workforce are **women**



In 2023, **BME staff** make up almost a **quarter** of the overall workforce



The NHS employs a total workforce of **1.26 million people**



The NHS has delivered more than **150 million COVID-19 vaccines**



In 2022, the NHS helped to deliver **over 500,000 babies**



The NHS was the first nation health system to **commit to Net Zero**



In 2022, **over 100,000** patients were diagnosed with cancer at **early stages**

## The NHS at 75: Reflections on the NHS's future



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The NHS at 75 represents a remarkable opportunity to examine this proud organisation, and the next 18 months will divide it into two very different external environments for leaders and the staff who work within it. Within the system itself, the remainder of 2023 will provide good opportunities to illuminate and accelerate best practice as the new Integrated Care Systems bed in, and organisations can seek to influence the health manifestos being developed this year by each of the main political parties.



# THE NHS AND ITS CURRENT REALITY



Over **42,400 staff voluntarily resigned** from the health service in Q2 of 2022 - higher than any quarter over the last decade



The UK now has the equivalent of **2,059 fewer fully qualified full-time GPs** compared to September 2015



Over **7 million people** are on waiting lists for specialist clinical care or surgery.



The UK has **fewer MRI machines and CT scanners** per person than any other developed country – according to the OECD



The NHS Estate faces a **£9bn backlog in repairs** needed for essential maintenance and building work



Demand for NHS services is only expected to increase, as by mid-2045 people aged **85 years** are expected to represent **4.3% of the total population**

In contrast, 2024 will see the NHS kicked about as a political football in the run-up to what is likely to be a feisty general election. It won't feel pleasant as the political parties promote their different 'offers' to the electorate whilst denigrating the performance or policies of their opponents. The ongoing disputes over NHS pay, increasingly long waiting lists, and a struggling primary care service are all issues unlikely to be solved

soon. As such, the debate between the two main parties will be highly charged, with selective use of facts, use of emotional personal stories, and potentially veering into intemperate accusation and counteraccusations. Labour will always view the NHS as a vote winner, whilst the Conservatives would be happy with a score-draw in the battle of the political narratives on health as they continue to find solutions to current problems.



But before then, there is much that can be done to consolidate the changes underway and to help shape policies and priorities before election fever takes over. Away from politics, hard work is needed now to fully embed the new paradigm of health and prosperity, integrated health and social care, and population health improvement.

The new structures, purpose and priorities of our new health and care system are still in the development phase in many areas, so it is important that we move quickly to complete the building of a robust and reliable platform for the future, irrespective of whoever holds the keys to Downing Street next year.

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