

NHS 'Winter Crisis'

12 - 1:30pm Thur 13 Feb Royal Liverpool



In December, Tricia O'Brien waited 17 hours for a bed in the Royal, awaiting treatment for a broken pelvis.

This 'winter crisis' is the worst ever, across all of England. Ambulances queue up outside hospitals, unable to discharge their patients as A&E is full. Inside, patients queue on trolleys, waiting for a bed. Cancer patients wait to begin treatment, months after an urgent referral from their GP. Patients can be kept on wards, when social care is lacking...

It's no accident. It's the result of deliberate government policy.

We know why the Royal and Aintree are running with 96% of

beds full, against a BMA safe limit of 85% to prevent cross infection. They haven't got enough beds. Why? Beds were cut in the run-up to the planned opening of the New Royal in 2017, with 315 fewer beds than the old Royal had a decade earlier. Why was the New Royal ►



designed with fewer beds? To make the PFI (Private Finance Initiative) scheme look affordable. Why was the new Royal being built with PFI? Because "everyone" thought it was "the only game in town".

Everyone except all the unions on and off site and all the health campaigners outside.

Now What?

After their election victory, the Tories have a free hand in Parliament to pursue their long term plans for the NHS.

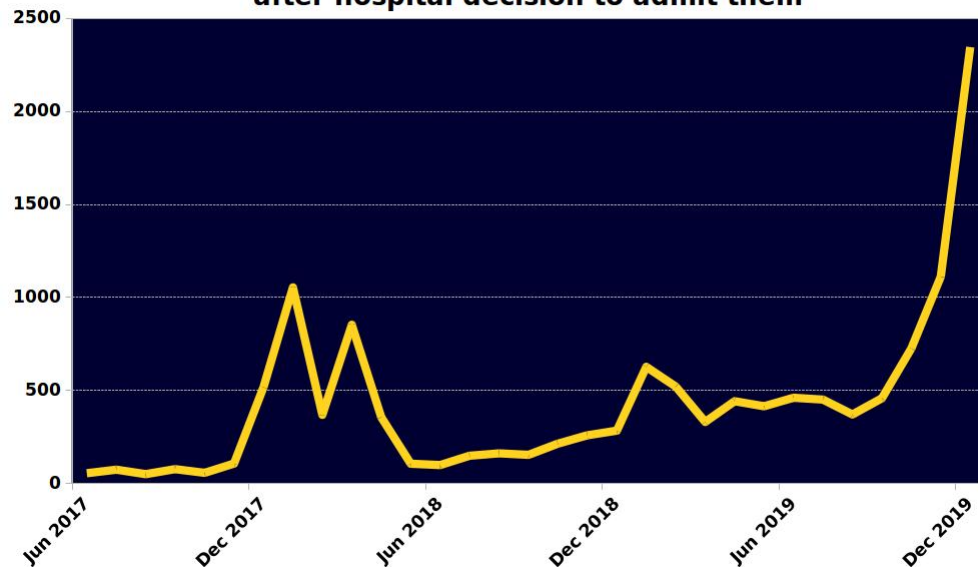
Already, 18% of NHS spending goes directly or indirectly to private companies. Tens of thousands of private contracts have been signed since 2015, including Virgin's deal for community services in West Lancashire, and management consultancy PWC's contract to support the "One Liverpool" strategy to redesign healthcare.

We expect a bonanza of private contracts to support the roll-out of integrated care systems, a model promoted by transnational health corporations including US firms, in the near future.

The NHS, conceived as a comprehensive universal service, publicly accountable, publicly provided, funded through general taxation and free at the point of use, is in mortal danger.

We can't let it die. See you on 13 Feb, at the Royal.

England June 2017 - Dec 2019: Patients waiting over 12 hours after hospital decision to admit them



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