

# Don't let Brexit bust our NHS!

While many were preoccupied with a certain red bus, health experts and NHS leaders were trying to warn people about the dangers of Brexit to the NHS, public health and medical innovation. Now that the Brexit vote has happened, we're already seeing the impacts that were warned about. Softening a hard Brexit or stopping it altogether is key to limiting the damage to our NHS and healthcare.

**Here are some key facts you should know:**

1) **The Lancet, British Medical Journal (BMJ), Royal College of Physicians & Royal College of Midwives** warned about Brexit impact on UK healthcare. They openly supported Remain. As did **Genetic Alliance UK**, which represents >180 patient groups.

2) The **Chief Exec of NHS England** warned about Brexit on broad economic grounds, saying "when the economy sneezes, the NHS catches a cold." So did 71 former **leaders of the UK's Medical Royal Colleges** and **British Medical Association**, saying: "It is Brexit that is the threat to the NHS."

3) According to **NHS Providers**, 75% of hospital leaders thought Brexit was bad news for the NHS: 65% thought it would damage shared networks, 80% thought it would damage medical R&D and 80% thought it would damage staff hiring. Only 38% thought it would damage how much money the NHS gets (but see next three points).

4) The **NHS is colossally underfunded by tens of billions** and entering crisis. Compared to France, Germany, Sweden, etc which fund their healthcare to 11% GDP, the UK is on 8.5%. Most NHS Trusts used to be in surplus, now 2/3 are in debt. The Autumn Statement offered no help for our NHS. **Brexit means borrowing £58.7 billion more** and cutting taxes. That means more austerity for our NHS.

5) Just the **falling pound will push up NHS supply costs** by hundreds of millions of pounds each year (half of NHS supplies come from outside the UK).

6) The **infamous £350m/week figure** on the bus was not only a lie, but moot. Our net contribution to EU is ~0.5% of taxpayer expenditure. Even if we did stop paying contributions in 2.5 years a) that's too late for the NHS's current crisis & b) the negative economic impacts will have already swallowed the "free" **£100m/week** many times over (just the Brexit borrowing bill is **£245m/week** over the next 5 years).

7) Brexit anti-immigration rhetoric is **chasing off foreign doctors**, nurses and care staff - at a time we badly need them. The NHS is already hugely understaffed and training new doctors takes over 7 years.

8) The UK has spent 40 years developing a web of health institutions with the EU (covering public health, medical innovation, cross-border care, health research & science). **A hard Brexit would destroy a lot** of the UK's roles in these. A soft Brexit has a much better chance of preserving what we've worked so hard to build together. Remaining would preserve our driving seat on them for sure.

**Experts aren't perfect, but UK health experts are more reliable than NHS promises on the side of a bus. They have always said Brexit is bad for the NHS. We must stop Brexit from breaking our NHS's future.**

[You can find references for all these points on our online factsheet: [www.healthierin.eu/factsheet](http://www.healthierin.eu/factsheet)]



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