

APPENDIX 2 – Things that Jeremy Hunt should look at, before attacking Wales...

No “top down” reorganisation of the English NHS

This is what the Coalition Government said on coming into office: *“We will stop the top-down reorganisations of the NHS that got in the way of patient care. We are committed to reducing duplication and the resources spent on administration, and diverting these resources back to front-line care.”*

This is what the National Audit Office say about the top-down reorganisation that we were told wouldn't happen:

“The reforms are reported to have cost £1.1 billion to 31 March 2013, 15 per cent more than expected at this point. The Department is confident that total costs will not exceed £1.7 billion. The estimated costs are outweighed by the estimated savings in administration costs arising from the reforms...”

Around 10,000 staff were made redundant as part of the reforms. The cost of redundancies accounted for 40 per cent of costs to the end of March 2013, an average of £43,095 a person. The Department estimates that 2,200 staff made redundant between May 2010 and September 2012 were subsequently re-employed. Redundancy payments can be reclaimed only if the individual concerned re-joins the NHS within four weeks of leaving”.

In the last 12 months:

- Almost a million people have waited more than four hours in A&E
- Trolley waits are up
- Delayed discharges are up
- 18 week waiting times are up
- Emergency admissions are up
- Cancelled elective operations are up
- Cancelled urgent operations are up
- People are being ferried to hospitals in police cars because ambulances aren't available
- Hospitals will end the financial year in the red for the first time in eight years, according to official figures, with 26 loss-making trusts reporting a combined deficit of £456.8m.

Satisfaction rates with NHS in England

- A survey of NHS England staff in summer 2013 found the overwhelming majority (69%) think the reorganisation in England has harmed patient care, with just 3% thinking it has improved care (YouGov, June 2013)
- 54% of respondents to an NHS Confederation survey of commissioners and providers said disruption due to organisational restructuring was posing a risk to the NHS (NHS Confederation, May 2012).
- An RCN survey in 2013 showed that as a result of the top down reorganisation nurses paperwork had doubled, with 81% of nurses saying having to complete non-essential

paperwork prevents them from providing direct patient care.

- Just 12% of the public think standards in the English NHS have got better under the Coalition, compared to 47% who think standards have got worse (YouGov, July 2013).
- In a recent interview in the Independent, Dr Clifford Mann, president of the College of Emergency said (English) Ministers were “tied in knots” by the challenges of the reorganisation and there was “decision making paralysis”.

Increasing privatisation in the English NHS:

Data from 134 of England’s acute NHS hospital trusts shows that 21 trusts have recently introduced private treatment options for patients.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-23334130>

<http://www.healthinvestor.co.uk/ShowArticle.aspx?ID=2891>

Indeed the scale of this expanding market in health care was shown in these reports in July 2013—£5bn of NHS work now up for grabs.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/6424b29e-f60a-11e2-a55d-00144feabdc0.html#axzz2aVzHtJB5>

“Private sector companies are engaged in an “arms race” to win £5bn of National Health Service work being tendered including hospitals, mental healthcare, pathology and GP clinics in a move that could transform the future of healthcare in Britain.

About 160 large-scale contracts are being advertised to private sector bidders including seven that are worth more than £100m in value, according to research by Bain, the consultancy, commissioned by the Financial Times”.

This FT report also highlights:

“The increase comes despite a series of scandals involving outsourced public sector contracts in recent months, including the alleged overcharging by Serco and G4S on prisoner tagging contracts. On Monday, NHS Direct – one of the providers of the troubled NHS 111 helpline – announced it was planning to pull out of its contracts because they were “financially unsustainable”.

£5 million spent on competition lawyers

- A Freedom of Information request to CCGs found that the NHS spent at least £5m on external competition lawyers in the sixth months since they were set up in April 2013. The full amount being spent by the NHS on competition lawyers is likely to be much higher than £5m – NHS providers and hospitals also report a sharp rise in legal bills but were not included in the survey. In addition, CCGs have in-house costs for managing the tendering process.
- The £5 million diverted from patient care in England to date would be enough to pay for over 100 A&E nurses. A recent survey of hospital bosses by the Health Service Journal

revealed that 9 in 10 want the incoming NHS Chief Executive to make cutting back the new competition rules his top priority.

Cuts in the English NHS

The NHS in England has lost a total of 5,601 nurses, midwives and health visitors since May 2010. *“Despite the government's pledge to protect frontline services with real-terms increases in funding, Monitor, the NHS watchdog, has proposed that in 2014-15 hospitals should be paid 4% less for operations than they were the previous year. While hospitals were braced for a cut of about £1bn in funding, the Foundation Trust Network, which represents all 160 hospital trusts in England, calculates that Monitor is now asking for another £500m in savings – roughly £3m from each trust.”*

Pressure on staff

“Eight out of 10 nurses feel they are under more pressure at work than they were 12 months ago, with seven out of 10 suffering the side-effects of stress, a major survey by Nursing Times has found.”

<http://www.nursingtimes.net/5063786.article?referrer=e1>

Social Care in England

- Since 2009/10 £1.8 billion has been cut from local council budgets across England for adult social care. As a result many councils in England are being forced to slash services and increase charges to balance their books.
- According to the Care Quality Commission, more than 500,000 elderly patients in England are needlessly being taken to the A+E every year because they are not being properly looked after at home.
- The Nuffield Trust reported that as a result of cuts to social care, almost a quarter of a million fewer elderly people are receiving support under this Government. Cutting social care for elderly people and putting extra pressure on A+E services in England. In the first three years of the Coalition Government A+E attendances increased by 633,000 across England.
- The director of Age UK said that “cuts to social care budgets has forced local authorities to increasingly restrict access to social care support leaving many older people to struggle on until they reach breaking point and have serious health crisis or an accident and end up in hospital.
- So far from helping the NHS it is the massive cuts made by Eric Pickles to the budgets of local councils across England that are making the situation worse.