

PRESS RELEASE



News from Keep Our NHS Public campaign www.keepournhspublic.com

CALLING NOTICE: Friday 4 July, 4pm, outside the Department of Health

NHS 60th birthday protest over increasing privatisation

As the NHS reaches 60, campaigners from London Keep Our NHS Public will take to Whitehall on Friday 4th July to lobby ministers and protest against the deepening privatisation of the health service.

PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES with a grim reaper threatening the NHS and activists signing a political birthday card. Campaigners will be available for comment throughout the protest, beginning at 4pm.

This week's Darzi review, although vague, cements the Blairite market reforms of the health service and builds on them with further commercialisation. Plans for polyclinics and super-surgeries built and run by profit-making corporations will mean further privatisation of primary care.

Professor Wendy Savage, Chair of Keep Our NHS Public, said:

"The NHS at 60 is in danger. The Darzi review is a smoke screen designed to defuse criticism of the market system whilst the government continues behind the scenes to pursue the commercialisation of family doctors and use US corporations to deliver care, procure supplies, commission services and now work with NHS Direct, all for the benefit of shareholders rather than the NHS.

"We will be at the Department of Health on Friday 4th July to remind ministers of the founding principles of the NHS that have sustained it for 60 years – a publicly run, publicly provided health service run for the benefit of people's health, not private profit."

Contact at the protest: Lois Austin 07944 320 031

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