The public recognise that the NHS is facing funding challenges
Most people think the NHS will face a severe funding problem in the future

Please tell me whether on the whole you agree or disagree with each of the following statements...
The NHS will face a severe funding problem in the future

88% Agree
7% Disagree

Base: Adults aged 16+ in England (c. 1000 per wave)

Source: Ipsos MORI / DH Perceptions of the NHS Tracker
And agree that the NHS is currently underfunded

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the NHS is currently underfunded?

In deliberative events with the general public undertaken with the King’s Fund, alongside acknowledging the pressures of a growing population and more older people needing care, reflections on frontline staff working in difficult circumstances stood out as particularly important to participants.

"I think the whole of the NHS needs more money. More funding for nurses and stuff..."
A lack of resources / investment is seen as the biggest problem facing the NHS

Overall, what do you see as the biggest problems facing the NHS? What else?

This question was unprompted, meaning participants were not presented with a list of potential answer codes when answering this question. Participants are able to give more than one answer at this question. Spontaneous mentions of 10% or more.

* Prior to the Winter 2015 wave, this code was worded 'Not enough doctors/nurses/understaffed'

Base: Adults aged 16+ in England (c. 1000 per wave), 2006-2016

Source: Ipsos MORI / DH Perceptions of the NHS Tracker
They are keen to protect NHS funding above all other areas
Three-quarters think the NHS provides good value for money to taxpayers

Please tell me whether on the whole you agree or disagree with each of the following statements... The NHS provides good value for money to taxpayers

Base: Adults aged 16+ in England (c. 1000 per wave for summer 2007 – winter 2015, 672 in winter 2016)

Source: Ipsos MORI / DH Perceptions of the NHS Tracker
And most think that the NHS' budget should be protected

Which two or three, if any, of the following main areas of public spending do you think should be protected from any cuts?

- The NHS / Health care: 88% (May 2017), 85% (March 2015)
- Schools: 56% (May 2017), 49% (March 2015)
- Care for the elderly: 40% (May 2017), 45% (March 2015)
- The Police: 31% (May 2017), 27% (March 2015)
- Social services: 20% (May 2017), 20% (March 2015)
- Defence: 12% (May 2017), 18% (March 2015)
- Benefit payments: 11% (May 2017), 13% (March 2015)
- Local authority services: 11% (May 2017), 12% (March 2015)
- Overseas aid: 4% (May 2017), 5% (March 2015)
- Don’t know: * (May 2017), 1% (March 2015)
- None: 1% (May 2017), 1% (March 2015)


* = less than 0.5%

Source: Ipsos MORI / the Health Foundation 2015
The public’s funding priority is for urgent & emergency care, with mental health second

If the Government were to devote more funding to health and care services, which three, if any, of the following do you think it should prioritise in terms of spending?

- Urgent and emergency care such as A&E and ambulance services: 68%
- Mental health services: 58%
- Community and social care services, such as supporting people with day-to-day needs like washing and dressing: 40%
- Children’s services: 40%
- Primary care, including general practice and pharmacy: 33%
- Routine planned surgery, for example hip, knee and cataract operations: 24%
- Public health initiatives to prevent more people from becoming unhealthy and ill: 23%
- None of these: 3%

Base: 917 English adults 18+, interviewed between 26 – 29 April 2018

Source: Ipsos MORI / NHS Providers 2018
This keenness to protect NHS funding translates into a willingness to pay more taxes
Many experts argue that it is becoming more expensive to fund the NHS because of increasing costs of treatments, an ageing population and several other factors. This means that even in order to maintain the current level of care and services provided for free by the NHS, spending on the NHS would have to increase. With that in mind, which, if any, of the following would you most like to see?

- Reduce spending on other services such as education and welfare in order to maintain the level of spending needed to keep the current level of care and services provided by the NHS (66%)
- Reduce the level of care and services provided by the NHS so that you do not need to increase the current level of taxation and spending on the NHS (20%)
- None (5%)

Base 568 English adults aged 15+, 4-10 August 2017

Source: Ipsos MORI / The King’s Fund 2017
And King’s Fund analysis shows growing support for paying more taxes to increase funding for the NHS

If the NHS needed more money, which of the following do you think you would be prepared to accept? Pay more taxes...

In deliberative workshops undertaken with The King’s Fund, general public participants also generally expressed a readiness to pay more tax to fund the NHS – and they held this view before we had talked in detail about the challenges facing the NHS.

“I’d happily do it... If it’s going to benefit me and my children and make this project fully viable, I’m happy to.”

Although there were concerns about affordability.

“But some people can’t afford to buy food and pay rent at the moment. Where will they get the money from? Times are hard.”

Survey source: The King’s Fund analysis of NatCen’s British Social Attitudes Survey

Qualitative source: The King’s Fund / Ipsos MORI
King’s Fund analysis shows greatest, and increased, support for a hypothecated tax

If the NHS needed more money, which of the following do you think you would be prepared to accept?

- Pay more through a separate tax that would go directly to the NHS: 2014 - 24%, 2015 - 24%, 2016 - 28%, 2017 - 35%
- Pay more through taxes I currently pay: 2014 - 17%, 2015 - 17%, 2016 - 21%, 2017 - 26%
- Pay £10 for each visit to a GP or local A&E department: 2014 - 14%, 2015 - 15%, 2016 - 14%, 2017 - 11%
- Pay for non-medical costs in hospital, like food and laundry: 2014 - 12%, 2015 - 12%, 2016 - 11%, 2017 - 8%
- Ending exceptions from current charges: 2014 - 3%, 2015 - 3%, 2016 - 5%, 2017 - 2%
- None: the NHS needs to live within its budget: 2014 - 3%, 2015 - 5%, 2016 - 15%, 2017 - 26%

Base: c.1000 British adults aged 18+

Source: The King’s Fund analysis of NatCen’s British Social Attitudes Survey
Deliberative events suggest a ring-fenced tax appeals to the public because they would like clarity over where the taxes go

“I think I’d prefer it; I’d know at least that a percentage of my money is going to the NHS. I don’t know where the [general] tax is going.”

Although some participants questioned how a ring-fenced tax would work in practice – and others argued that any dedicated NHS tax would need to be tailored to individuals’ circumstances.

“I’d agree with the tax if it was means-tested, and it was a specific tax for the NHS.”

A small number of participants also challenged the principle of ring-fencing, questioning what value it would add, and suggesting it would simply add another layer of bureaucracy.

“What’s the point of that? It’s just another layer.”

Source: Ipsos MORI / The King’s Fund
But charges for overseas visitors and patients missing appointments are preferred to increasing taxes as ways of increasing funding

To maintain the current level of care and services provided by the NHS, funding for the NHS would have to increase. I am now going to read out some suggestions people have made about how funding could increase. With that in mind, how acceptable or unacceptable do you feel each of the following measures would be...

- Completely acceptable
- Fairly acceptable
- Neither acceptable nor unacceptable
- Fairly unacceptable
- Completely unacceptable
- Don’t know

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Completely acceptable</th>
<th>Fairly acceptable</th>
<th>Neither acceptable nor unacceptable</th>
<th>Fairly unacceptable</th>
<th>Completely unacceptable</th>
<th>Don’t know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increasing charges for visitors from outside the UK for health services they receive from the NHS</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charging patients for missed appointments</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increasing National Insurance</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charging patients who have diseases/illnesses caused in some way by their lifestyle</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increasing income tax</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charging for some health services that are currently free</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moving to a type of insurance model for NHS funding</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>35%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Base: 1,033 adults aged 18+ in the UK, 26 – 29 January 2017

Source: Ipsos MORI / BBC News 2017
Yet there are some caveats to tax increases
People are now more likely to disagree than agree the NHS is doing everything it can to reduce waste and inefficiency.

Please tell me whether on the whole you agree or disagree with each of the following statements...
The NHS is doing everything it can to reduce waste and inefficiency

46% Disagree
40% Agree

Base: Adults aged 16+ in England (c. 1000 per wave)

Source: Ipsos MORI/Department of Health Perceptions of the NHS Tracker
And around half of the public think the NHS often wastes money

Thinking about the NHS as a whole, which of the following statements best reflects your views on the way the NHS uses money?

- The NHS almost never wastes money
- The NHS often wastes money
- The NHS generally doesn't waste money
- Don't know

9% 37% 50% 4%

Deliberative events undertaken with the King’s Fund exposes a lot of concern among the public about how well the NHS spends its money. Examples given included:

- spending on private hospitals
- private finance initiative
- waste of medication (e.g. dispensing of prescriptions not required) and equipment (e.g. crutches)
- procurement
- IT systems
- how the workforce is organised

Base: 1,944 GB adults aged 18+, interviewed between 5-15 May 2017

Survey source: Ipsos MORI / the Health Foundation 2017
Qualitative source: Ipsos MORI / The King’s Fund
The NHS still needs more money despite this view of waste and inefficiency

Despite this widespread perception of waste and inefficiency, in deliberative events conducted with The King’s Fund many general public participants still held the view that the NHS needs more money.

However, a few participants argued that additional funding for the NHS should be conditional on it reducing waste.

“However, if we did pay more money we would need more efficiencies, and if that doesn’t happen, the public mood would swing.”

Related to this, some participants also expressed enthusiasm for greater transparency over how the NHS uses its resources.

“If it’s our NHS then it should be completely transparent and we should all see where the money is going, and I think that would incentivise or encourage people to want to pay for it more.”

There were also other expectations attached to increased funding

For example, in exchange for more funding some people would expect to see improvements in access to care.

“If I thought ‘so I’m paying more tax for the NHS’, I then expect to get an appointment to see a GP and get diagnosed that day... If I’m paying more though, I expect more.”

And there was a recurring theme about wanting the money to reach the frontline.

“If they had more money, they could raise the wages of the nurses and doctors.”

Source: Ipsos MORI / The King’s Fund
There are also views on other ways of raising money
Where people think NHS increases should be funded via cuts elsewhere, they think cuts could be made to overseas aid & defence

You said that you think there should be cuts to other services to increase spending on the NHS. What areas of government funding do you think should be cut to do this?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overseas aid</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defence</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefit payments</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government &amp; politician pay &amp; expenses</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services provided by local councils and authorities</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social services</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education and Schools</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The police</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Care for the elderly</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

"I think they should cut the defence budget... We have a new aircraft carrier and we can’t afford to get planes on it. I feel strongly about it. Cut foreign aid; it’s abused."

Base: All UK adults who would fund NHS increases through cuts elsewhere (321 adults 15+ in the UK 2018)

Survey source: Ipsos MORI / the Health Foundation 2018
Qualitative source: Ipsos MORI / The King’s Fund
To what extent do you support or oppose each of the following as a way of securing additional funding to maintain the NHS...

- Fines for missed appointments (e.g. GP, hospital appointments)
  - Strongly support: 31%
  - Tend to support: 61%
  - Neither/nor: 30%
  - Tend to oppose: 10%
  - Strongly oppose: 16%
  - Don’t know: 13%

- Increasing prescription charges to £10 (the current prescription charge is £8.05)
  - Strongly support: 30%
  - Tend to support: 23%
  - Neither/nor: 19%
  - Tend to oppose: 25%
  - Strongly oppose: 52%
  - Don’t know: 27%

- Being charged a £10 fee to visit a GP
  - Strongly support: 15%
  - Tend to support: 4%
  - Neither/nor: 11%
  - Tend to oppose: 10%
  - Strongly oppose: 74%
  - Don’t know: 44%

Source: Ipsos MORI / the Health Foundation 2015
Around half would not be willing to pay in order to guarantee a GP appointment

Imagine now that you were experiencing symptoms of a health condition and you decided that you need to see your GP within the next 24 hours. How much, if anything, would you be willing to pay in order to be guaranteed an appointment with your GP within the next 24 hours?

Mean: £11.08

- 51% would not be willing to pay
- 13% would be willing to pay £6 - £10
- 11% would be willing to pay £1 - £5
- 7% would be willing to pay £11 - £15
- 4% would be willing to pay £16 - £20
- 4% would be willing to pay £21 - £30
- 3% would be willing to pay £31 - £50
- 2% would be willing to pay £51+ or more
- 4% don’t know

Base: 1,033 adults aged 18+ in the UK, 26 – 29 January 2017

Source: Ipsos MORI / BBC News 2017
And there is support for rationing some services

The following treatments I will read out are generally available for free on the NHS in the United Kingdom. For each, please state whether you think it should: be available for free to everybody who needs it, be available for free only for some people who need it, or no longer be available for free for anybody who needs it...?

- Should be available for free to everybody who needs it
- Should not be available for free for anybody who needs it
- Should be available for free for only some people who need it
- Don't know

Drugs which extend life for less than six months for terminally ill patients, for example some cancer treatments

- 76% Should be available for free to everybody who needs it
- 18% Should be available for free for only some people who need it
- 5% Should not be available for free for anybody who needs it
- 1% Don’t know

Operations to treat varicose veins

- 58% Should be available for free to everybody who needs it
- 32% Should be available for free for only some people who need it
- 7% Should not be available for free for anybody who needs it
- 3% Don’t know

Fertility treatment

- 50% Should be available for free to everybody who needs it
- 36% Should be available for free for only some people who need it
- 13% Should not be available for free for anybody who needs it
- 2% Don’t know

Liver transplants for alcoholics

- 33% Should be available for free to everybody who needs it
- 39% Should be available for free for only some people who need it
- 25% Should not be available for free for anybody who needs it
- 3% Don’t know

Weight loss surgery (for example gastric bands) for obese patients

- 27% Should be available for free to everybody who needs it
- 48% Should be available for free for only some people who need it
- 25% Should not be available for free for anybody who needs it
- 1% Don’t know

Base: 1,033 adults aged 18+ in the UK, 26 – 29 January 2017

Source: Ipsos MORI / BBC News 2017
Although fines for missed appointments were seen as a good deterrent, the public pointed to practical issues

Potential issues identified in general public deliberative events conducted with The King’s Fund included:

- It would be difficult and potentially expensive, e.g. it would need to consider individual circumstances for why an appointment was missed.
- Some people will not be able to afford a fine.
- There could be an unintended consequence of increasing A&E attendance.

“**But if you’re the type of person who continually misses appointments, you probably won’t be able to pay anyway. The people who can pay will show up. If they haven’t got the money you can’t get the money from them; you can’t get blood from a stone.**”

And views of rationing were very mixed in deliberative events

Some were receptive, while others expressed deep unease.

Views also hinged on what element of healthcare was being discussed.

For example, participants generally supported the idea of requiring patients to purchase low-cost medicines that are easily available without a prescription.

But on other issues such as IVF or not treating people with conditions caused by lifestyle, views were mixed and often depended on their own circumstances.

“**Anyone who’s had kids will say scrap fertility [treatment]. [But] I don’t think any one person can dictate what someone should and shouldn’t provide treatment for.**”

Source: Ipsos MORI / The King’s Fund
Following the announcement of increased funding for the NHS...
Of a range of options for funding the increase, higher taxes are most preferred

Which of the following, if any, would you support to pay for the increased funding for the NHS the Government has announced? Please pick all that apply, or if you think the NHS should not receive any funding there is an option to say so.

- Increase the taxes that I pay: 55%
- More charges for NHS services for people on high income: 55%
- More charges for NHS services for everyone: 38%
- Higher government borrowing: 21%
- Reduced spending on other public services: 20%
- Other: 5%
- NHS should not receive any funding: 1%

Base: 1,026 British adults 18+ 22 – 27 June 2018

Source: Ipsos MORI Political Monitor 2018
Although few think the amount of money is enough to lead to improvements in the NHS – the public seem realistic

As you may know the Government has recently announced that it will be providing an extra £20 billion a year for the NHS for the next five years, an increase of 3.4%. When thinking about the effect this extra funding will have on the NHS, which of the following is closest to your opinion?

- The extra funding is enough to lead to improvements in NHS services: 49%
- The extra funding is enough to maintain the current level of NHS services, but not to lead to improvements: 14%
- The extra funding is not enough and NHS services will get worse: 33%
- Don’t know: 4%

Base: 1,026 British adults 18+, 22 – 27 June 2018

Source: Ipsos MORI Political Monitor 2018
And they are most likely to be willing to pay more tax if it means services improve a great deal.

Thinking about investment in the NHS, how willing if at all, would you be to pay more tax if ...?

- '...it meant that the NHS service improved a great deal': 84%
- '...it meant that the NHS service improved slightly': 75%
- ...it meant that the NHS service remained at current levels, in that they were neither declining nor improving': 61%

Base: 1,004 British adults, 28 June – 1 July 2018

Source: Ipsos MORI / NHS Confederation 2018
But there are mixed views about spending the money on care close to home rather than hospital care

The Prime Minister in a recent speech announced more funding for the NHS.

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement.

Any extra funding within the NHS should focus MORE on providing care closer to home and less on hospital care.

Source: Ipsos MORI / NHS Confederation 2018

Base: 1,004 British adults, 28 June – 1 July 2018
NHS AT 70

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