



# Poll Conducted for the BBC

## NHS Pressures Research (January 2017)

### BBC – NHS Pressures Research

- Fieldwork dates: 26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> January 2017
- All figures in percentages
- Base: All adults aged 18+ in the United Kingdom
- Data have been weighted to the known population profile of the UK
- Interviews conducted by telephone using Random Digit Dialling
- An asterisk represents a percentage less than 0.5 but greater than 0
- Numbers may not always add up to 100% due to computer rounding or multiple answers

### Q1

I'd now like you to think about your own experience and everything you have seen, heard or read recently.

Do you think the ability for the NHS to deliver the care and services it provides over the last six months has been getting...?

	%
Much better	3
Slightly better	5
About the same	37
Slightly worse	28
Much worse	24
Don't know	3
Better	8
Worse	52

Base: All adults aged 18+ in the United Kingdom (n = 1,033)



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### Q2

What, if anything, do you think currently puts pressure on the NHS to deliver the service it provides?

*NOTE: Answers were not prompted and have been coded to the most applicable responses.*

*Top 10 responses included below.*

	%
Shortage of healthcare professionals	29
Government cuts to NHS funding	22
The general level of funding for the NHS	21
People using NHS services inappropriately (e.g. Accident and Emergency services)	17
Growing population	14
Ageing population	12
The level of immigration to the United Kingdom	10
Overworked healthcare professionals	8
Bad management	7
Funding going to the wrong parts of the NHS	6

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### Q3

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?

	Charging for some health services that are currently free %	Charging patients who have diseases and illnesses which are caused in some way by their lifestyle %	Increasing income tax %	Increasing National Insurance %	Increasing charges for visitors from outside the United Kingdom for health services they receive from the NHS %	Moving to a type of insurance model for NHS funding %	Charging patients for missed appointments (for example GP or hospital appointments) %
<b>Completely acceptable</b>	9	13	13	15	50	6	36
<b>Fairly acceptable</b>	28	32	27	38	24	28	35
<b>Neither acceptable nor unacceptable</b>	10	10	9	9	7	11	6
<b>Fairly unacceptable</b>	20	18	20	15	10	16	12
<b>Completely unacceptable</b>	31	26	30	22	8	35	10
<b>Don't know</b>	2	1	1	1	1	4	1
<b>Acceptable</b>	37	44	40	53	74	33	71
<b>Unacceptable</b>	51	45	50	37	18	51	22

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### Q4

In order to increase the amount of funding available to the NHS, some people support increasing each rate of income tax by one pence in every pound.

This would mean:

- The basic rate of income tax, which applies to anyone with an annual income over £11,000, would increase from 20 pence in every pound to 21 pence in every pound
- The higher rate of income tax, which applies to income over £43,000, would increase from 40 pence in every pound to 41 pence in every pound
- The additional rate of income tax, which applies to income over £150,000, would increase from 45 pence in every pound to 46 pence in every pound

To what extent would you support or oppose increasing each rate of income tax by one pence in every pound for all who pay income tax?

	The basic rate (from 20p to 21p) %	The higher rate (from 40p to 41p) %	The additional rate (from 45p to 46p) %
<b>Strongly support</b>	28	40	42
<b>Tend to support</b>	22	20	20
<b>Neither support nor oppose</b>	13	13	13
<b>Tend to oppose</b>	10	6	7
<b>Strongly oppose</b>	27	19	17
<b>Don't know</b>	1	1	2
<b>Support</b>	50	61	62
<b>Oppose</b>	36	25	24

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### Q5

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?

Please give your answer to the nearest pound

	%
<b>Nothing</b>	51
<b>Any value (Net)</b>	43
<b>£1 - £5</b>	11
<b>£6 - £10</b>	13
<b>£11 - £15</b>	2
<b>£16 - £20</b>	7
<b>£21 - £30</b>	4
<b>£31 - £50</b>	4
<b>£51+</b>	3
<b>Don't know</b>	5
<b>Mean</b>	£11.08
<b>Mean (among all willing to pay)</b>	£23.89

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## Q6

As you may be aware, 95% of patients attending an Accident and Emergency department should expect to be seen, treated and admitted, discharged or transferred from hospital within four hours of arrival.

**[IF ENGLAND:** In November 2016, 88% of patients were seen within four hours across all A&E departments in England]

**[IF SCOTLAND:** In November 2016, 94% of patients were seen within four hours across all A&E departments in Scotland]

**[IF WALES:** In November 2016, 82% of patients were seen within four hours across all A&E departments in Wales]

**[IF NORTHERN IRELAND:** In September 2016, 76% of patients were seen within four hours across all A&E departments in Northern Ireland]

Some people say that removing this four hour standard would help the NHS provide care to those with the greatest need, while others say that it would increase waiting times at Accident and Emergency departments.

Given this, to what extent would you support or oppose keeping this four hour waiting time standard for hospital Accident and Emergency departments?

	%
<b>Strongly support</b>	37
<b>Tend to support</b>	21
<b>Neither support nor oppose</b>	19
<b>Tend to oppose</b>	10
<b>Strongly oppose</b>	11
<b>Don't know</b>	2
<b>Support</b>	58
<b>Oppose</b>	20

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### Q7

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?

	Fertility treatment %	Drugs which extend life for less than six months for terminally ill patients, for example some cancer treatments %	Operations to treat varicose veins %	Liver transplants for alcoholics %	Weight loss surgery (for example gastric bands) for obese patients %
<b>Should be available for free to everybody who needs it</b>	50	76	58	33	27
<b>Should be available for free only for some people who need it</b>	36	18	32	39	48
<b>Should not be available for free for anybody who needs it</b>	13	5	7	25	25
<b>Don't know</b>	2	1	3	3	1
<b>NET: Should <u>not</u> be available for free to everybody who needs it</b>	48	23	39	64	72

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