

# **Reclaim the NHS** *take back what was ours*

**Our National Health Service was once the envy of the world  
– not any more.**

***The NHS has been systematically privatised, fragmented and starved of funds. This causes needless suffering and forces those who can afford it into private health insurance***

Behind the NHS logo private firms are providing a wide range of health services: hospitals, urgent care, pathology, mental health, GP practices and ambulances as well catering, portering and cleaning. Their main aim is making profit not patients' needs.

Since the 1980s over 100 hospitals have been closed and half of hospital beds have been cut at a time when the UK population has grown by about 10 million. People face growing poverty, poor housing, joblessness and a mental health crisis.

There are serious shortages – of properly qualified staff, beds and equipment.

90% of the provision of social care for the elderly, disabled and young people is now privatised, and there have been massive budget cuts.

**The British public paid for the NHS, its assets, its staff and equipment. Yet for 40 years, successive governments have passed laws to fragment it and hand it over to international corporations . The profiteers' only interest is in making profits from human need.**