

## **Reclaiming the NHS: Let's discard the entire Internal Market**

I welcomed the Shadow Health Secretary's recent conference speech. I hope the next government will abolish the Health and Social Care Act. As a long-serving GP I am now charged with the responsibility for the impossible and toxic burden of being a GP Commissioner. Such factionalism has sown mistrust, division and chicanery within the broader profession. The erosion is in the consulting room, too: for these new managerial imperatives then displace traditional GPs' tasks – those of providing individual care and understanding through *relationships*. We need not just time for these, but also head and heart-space.

Good morale and relationships are essential to good care. Competition commissioning and commodification often – paradoxically – destroy these essences. The recent reforms accelerating these 'modernising' agents to determine our Welfare now constitute a massive and failed social experiment.

I recommend that we retrench further: to discard the entire Internal Market with its Purchasers and Providers and autarkic NHS Trusts. Our healthcare and Welfare can then restore our less sullied vocational energies and their synergistic relationships.

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