

CHPI

Centre for Health
and the
Public Interest

CHPI Our impact in 2022

2022

Introduction from the Director



Dear Colleague

In a year that witnessed public concern about the future of the NHS and the provision of social care reach new heights, the CHPI has been able to demonstrate the importance of a research think-tank with a clear focus on the public interest.

Over the course of 2022 our profile and reach has continued to grow, and we have become increasingly established as an authoritative thought leader on health and social care issues.

We have used our expertise in regulation, public policy, freedom of information law, finance and accountancy as well as our networks across academia, the media and within the health and social care professions to shine a light on issues which no other think-tank has looked at; issues such as financial conflicts of interest in healthcare, the impact of patient safety failings in the private sector on women, the growth of a two-tier healthcare system in the UK, the financing of the UK care home sector and the relationship between the NHS and the private sector during the pandemic.

In doing so we have helped change how regulatory bodies, parliamentary select committees and politicians approach these issues and how the media and members of the public understand them.

In addition to our research work, over the course of the last year the CHPI team has worked with patient groups and film makers, held three successful events with highly influential stakeholders, addressed numerous conferences and been quoted on a regular basis in The Guardian, The Financial Times, The Sunday Times as well as giving media interviews to BBC National and local Radio. The Team has continued to expand over the last year to enable us to continue championing the public interest and the founding principles of the NHS.

The very challenging political and economic context that shaped 2022 looks set to continue into the months heading into the next election, and we anticipate that many of the themes that have shaped our work will continue to be central in 2023.

I am extremely proud of the impact that the team has had despite the comparatively small financial resources at our disposal, and we remain hugely grateful to all of those who have provided us with support over the last year.

David Rowland
Director, CHPI

In brief: our impact in 2022

Our work to promote the public interest in health and social care policy involved the following activities in 2022:

- **Pushing concerns about financial conflicts of interest in healthcare up the policy agenda** – our research into the large numbers of financial conflicts of interest in the medical profession was covered exclusively by The Guardian in 2022 and referred to by the Professional Standards Authority who recommended tighter regulation in this area.
- **Holding power to account using Freedom of Information law** – we challenged NHS England and individual NHS trusts in the courts to gain access to information about the delivery of private patient services and the relationship between the NHS and the private hospital sector during the pandemic.
- **Showing how patient safety risks in the for-profit healthcare sector can disproportionately affect women** – we appeared as experts in a major ITV documentary on the activities of the breast surgeon Ian Paterson and hosted a screening of the film along with a panel debate with patient representatives and lawyers about the ongoing gaps in regulation.
- **Arguing against the creation of a two-tier healthcare system in the UK** – we used our voice in the media to highlight how the ‘managed decline’ of the NHS is leading to an unfair two-tier system whereby those who can afford to pay get access to treatment ahead of those who can’t.
- **Helping policy makers to understand the finances of the UK care home sector** – we briefed senior policy makers in government and parliament about the financial impact of the pandemic on the UK care home sector. In 2022 our recommendations on stricter financial regulation for the care home sector were endorsed by the local government select Committee and adopted by the Labour Party.
- **Scrutinising the new public health system in England after the pandemic** – we worked with Directors of Public Health to understand how the 2020 abolition of Public Health England has impacted health protection and health improvement across the country.
- **Holding high impact events to promote the importance of the public interest in health and social care policy making** – we hosted events that brought together senior policy makers, regulators, and those working in the NHS to explain the importance of the public interest in health and social care policy.

Pushing concerns about financial conflicts of interest in healthcare up the policy agenda

For several years, we have raised concerns about the existence of major financial conflicts of interest in the UK’s healthcare system and the lack of effective safeguards to protect the public interest.

In January 2022, we worked with The Guardian to produce a report which revealed that 481 mainly NHS medical consultants own shares in joint ventures with for-profit healthcare companies, generating them £31m in dividends over 6 years.

Our concerns about conflicts of interest were picked up by the Professional Standards Authority (PSA) the statutory organisation which oversees the regulation of all healthcare professionals in the UK.

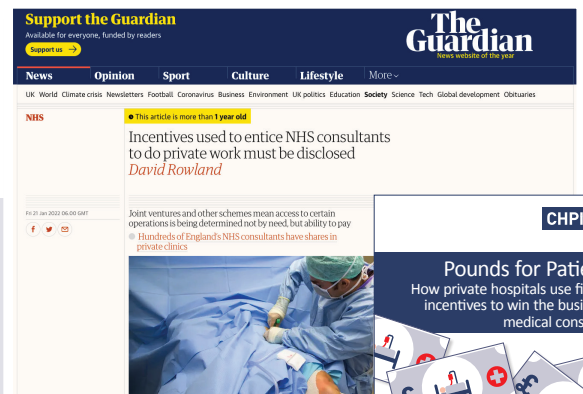
In their report, ‘Safer Care for All’ they cited our research identifying both the existence of these conflicts and the lack of safeguards to prevent them from harming patient care and recommended that:

‘In the longer term we believe that there should be a cross-sector review of the effectiveness of current arrangements to address financial conflicts of interest among healthcare professionals’

Our Director David Rowland also spoke about these issues at the PSA’s annual conference in November to an online audience of 60 people.



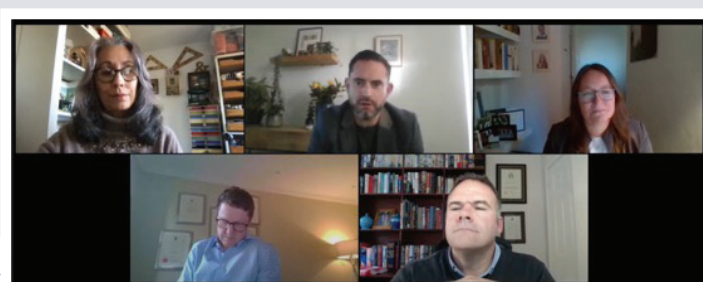
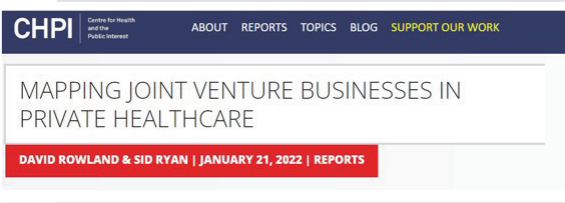
In the longer term we believe that there should be a cross-sector review of the effectiveness of current arrangements to address financial conflicts of interest among healthcare professionals. Any harm caused to patients as a result of a conflict of interest not only represents a gross breach of trust by the individual medical professional involved, but also risks damaging patient and public confidence in the profession as a whole.



Joint ventures between private healthcare companies and medical consultants

Revenue and dividend figures for 2015-2020

Parent company	Joint ventures	Consultants with equity stakes	Total revenue	Total dividends	Dividends to consultants
HCA Healthcare	15	342	£870,614,000	£248,841,000	£25,726,956
Aspen Healthcare	5	51	£244,959,848	£20,839,000	£3,862,180
Specsavers (Newmedica)	5	18	*	£1,303,000	£141,726
GenesisCare	3	41	£7,869,271	£7,533,606	£603,166



Holding power to account using Freedom of Information law: who benefits from private patient units in the NHS?

Since 2012 NHS hospitals have been able to generate up to half their income from private patients. Many people have asked whether NHS patients benefit from this policy. In May 2022 we went to court to seek information from the Royal Marsden NHS Trust – which generates over 1/3 of its income from private patients – to find out how much of the income it gets from private patients benefits NHS services.

Although we did not have legal representation, we made detailed arguments in favour of transparency over the 3-day hearing but unfortunately lost the case as it was decided that such information was ‘commercially confidential’.

This means that the public have no right to know whether NHS private patient units are beneficial to the NHS, despite the fact that the government is encouraging more Trusts to expand these services.

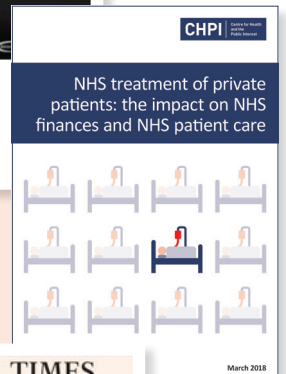
Our work in this area sparked further interest from the media who reported on some of the findings from the Tribunal and also ran news stories on those Trusts who have continued to sell private services to patients throughout the 2022 winter crisis as NHS waiting lists soar.



Top NHS hospital pocketed £38m doing private surgery for Kuwait patients

- Hospital earned almost a tenth of its total income doing private work for Kuwait
- This work 'was worth nearly 9 per cent of its £463million income in 2019-20'
- Critics say NHS hospitals should use doctors & beds to help clear waiting lists

By SHALIN WOOLLER HEALTH CORRESPONDENT FOR THE DAILY MAIL
PUBLISHED: 00:56, 21 September 2022 | UPDATED: 09:33, 21 September 2022



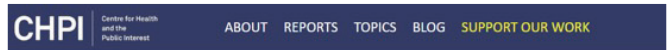
Trust earned £39m from Middle Eastern country in one year

By Ben Clover | 15 September 2022



24 Comments

- > Nearly a tenth of the Royal Marsden FT's income comes from the Gulf State, court papers show
- > Documents show in one year NHS income accounts for only half the total



IS TREATING PRIVATE PATIENTS A NET BENEFIT TO NHS TRUSTS? WE MAY NEVER KNOW

SID RYAN | NOVEMBER 28, 2022 | BLOG

Showing how patient safety risks in the for-profit healthcare sector affect women

Building on our previous interventions on patient safety in private hospitals this year we worked with BAFTA award winning documentary maker Alison Millar to help tell the story of those affected by the breast surgeon Ian Paterson, whose actions in both the NHS and the private sector harmed thousands of patients and their families.

We screened Alison Millar’s documentary – which originally aired on ITV in July 2022 – at the Royal Society of Medicine in London in front of an invited audience of 100 people from the medical royal colleges, professional regulators, patient groups and the media.

We were honoured to follow the screening with a panel discussion chaired by Shaun Lintern, the health editor of the Sunday Times and involving Baroness Shaista Gohir, Chief Executive of the Muslim Women’s Network, Debbie Douglas, Paterson Patient and campaigner, Kath Samson,

from the ‘Sling the Mesh’ campaign, and Linda Millband head of clinical negligence at Thompsons solicitors.

We will continue to work with and to support the various patient groups who are seeking both redress for the harms caused to them as well as legal and regulatory changes to prevent something similar happening again.

We also supported the Doctors Association UK and BBC File on Four in their investigation into Resident Medical Officers (RMOs) – who are responsible for post-operative care in private hospitals – in which they found highly problematic working practices, particularly for those doctors brought to the UK from Africa.

We have raised the working practices of RMOs as major patient safety issue for a number of years and it is significant that the British Medical Association (BMA) are now pushing for change in this area.

‘Exploited’ foreign doctors worry about risk to UK patients

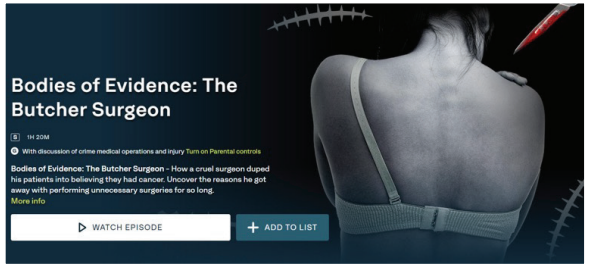


| Augustine came to the UK from Nigeria to work as a doctor in a large private hospital in West Yorkshire

By Paul Kenyon & Anna Meisel
File on 4 & Newsnight

Doctors recruited from some of the world's poorest countries to work in UK hospitals say they're being exploited - and believe they're so overworked they fear putting patients' health at risk.

A BBC investigation has found evidence that doctors from Nigeria are being recruited by a British healthcare company and expected to work in private hospitals under conditions not allowed in the National Health Service.



Questioning the public benefit of contracts between the NHS and for-profit healthcare sector

Building on our work from 2021 when we published a major study into the deal between the NHS and the private hospital sector we have continued to raise issues about various deals between the NHS and the private sector.

In January 2022 when the government arranged a new deal which was deemed by the CEO of the NHS not to be in the public interest, our lead researcher Sid Ryan told The Guardian about the real value for money concerns about the deal.

We also worked with the Financial Times, the Daily Mail and Stella Creasy MP to highlight the fact that many of the private healthcare companies which had received hundreds of millions of pounds from the NHS during the pandemic, also claimed millions of pounds in furlough. This led to calls for these funds to be paid back to the taxpayer.

Despite the initial claims from the NHS that the arrangements with the private hospital sector during COVID would be ‘fully transparent’ we have again had to use our Freedom of Information expertise to secure the release of the contracts and some of the financial information which underpins them.

Without these efforts – which remain ongoing – none of this important information would be in the public domain.

We have also highlighted the fact that major reform of the for-profit healthcare sector in the UK is needed before the Labour party pushes forward with its policies for increasing the number of NHS patients treated in the private sector.

Javid tells NHS England to give private hospitals up to £270m in case of Omicron surge

Independent healthcare sector accused of ‘acting as a parasite’ after ‘minimum income guarantee’ deal

The Guardian
News website of the year



MailOnline

Healthcare giants 'must repay their furlough millions': Private firms helping NHS during Covid pandemic face calls to hand back fortune they pocketed while seeing bumper profits

- Private healthcare bodies collected as much as £72million in furlough money
- HCA Healthcare was paid £190million by the NHS in the pandemic but still uses the Government's furlough scheme
- The vast sums claimed by the firms was enough to pay the salary of 2,000 nurses

Private hospitals coming to the NHS's rescue? Labour should know better

David Rowland

Wes Streeting is wrong, evidence about the parasitic and risky nature of private healthcare has been mounting for decades



The Guardian
News website of the year

Arguing against the creation of a two-tier healthcare system in the UK

As the NHS has struggled to cope with the needs of the population after the peak of the pandemic with growing waiting times and NHS hospitals at full capacity, we have helped the media and the public understand how the underfunding of the NHS over the past decade has led to a growth in people having to pay privately for their care.

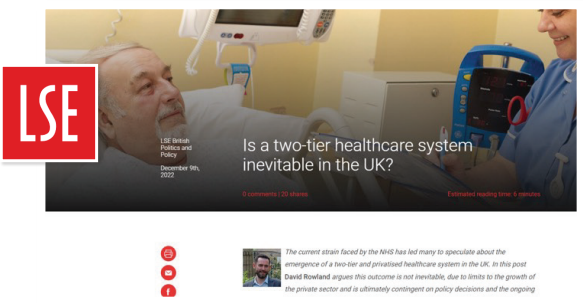
This could lead to a two-tier healthcare system where those who can afford to pay get access to treatment ahead of those who can't.

We wrote about this for the LSE Policy and Politics blog and published our own briefing paper on

the subject ('The Bet against the NHS') which was covered by Aditya Chakrabortty in The Guardian.

These same concerns were recently highlighted by the former Prime Minister Gordon Brown in The Guardian newspaper in January 2023.

Our work on this area was also referred to in The Guardian in January 2022, the Financial Times in January 2023 and The Sunday Times in January 2023 demonstrating that the CHPI has become an important thought leader in this crucial debate about the future of the NHS.



Helping policy makers to understand the finances of the care home sector in the UK

As part of our research into the financial impact of COVID on the UK care home sector with Warwick Business School and UCL we have spoken to policy makers in the Department of Health and Social Care, the National Audit Office, the Care Quality Commission and the All Party Parliamentary Group on Adult Social care as well as officials in the Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish Governments. Our final research report into the impact of COVID on the care home sector will be published in early 2023.

We were also pleased to see that during 2022 the Parliamentary Select Committee into local government agreed with our recommendations in our 2019 report that there needs to be greater financial transparency in the care home sector. In September 2022 the Labour Party also adopted this policy, demonstrating how the evidence-based research that we produce can have a real impact on the policy debate.



Shadow Health and Care Secretary West Streeting today pledges to kick out the financial "sharks" (Image: Getty Images)

- NEWS
- POLITICS
- FOOTBALL
- CELEBS
- TV
- MONEY
- ROYALS

Labour vow to kick financial 'sharks' out of care homes with fair pay for workers



House of Commons
 Levelling Up, Housing and
 Communities Committee

Long-term funding of adult social care

Second Report of Session 2022–23

Scrutinising the new Public Health system in England after COVID

Our grant from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust has enable us to work with Directors of Public Health to understand how the changes to the public health system in England, following the abolition of Public Health England have impacted on health protection and health improvement.

Our survey and interviews with Directors have raised significant questions about political interference in public health decision making as well as issues about the new system not being effectively joined up, potentially making England less well prepared for a future pandemic. We will publish this research in early 2023.

Explaining the importance of the public interest in health and social care policy making

In order to help policy makers, regulators, and those working in the NHS understand the importance of the public interest in health and social care policy making we held two events over the summer of 2022.

At an event at the Royal Society of Medicine in London in March 2022 our Director David Rowland spoke on a panel with our board member Dr Guddi Singh and Dr Phil Hammond from Private Eye about the importance of placing the public interest at the heart of the NHS and social care. We also used the event to launched our review of the past 5 years.

We were joined in an audience by the Chair of the General Medical Council, the President of the Faculty of Public Health, the Chair of the Mary Seacole Trust, Members of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, Past Presidents of the Royal Society of Medicine and the Royal College of Physicians and two former Health ministers.

In July 2022 we held a seminar for members of the NHS Clinical Leadership Programme to discuss developments in health policy in England. We presented our research alongside colleagues from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and NHS England to an audience of 30 people working in all disciplines in the NHS.



Building the CHPI team

This year CHPI added to the staff team, recruiting a Media and Communications Manager Lizzie Feltoe who has maintained our blogs, website, produced events and broadened our reach on social media.

We have been joined by two new patrons Sir Richard Thompson and Dr Charles Clark who

have provided us with much valued moral and strategic support and have allowed us to benefit from their knowledge and experience of working in the NHS.

We are also currently recruiting for two Trustees to add to our existing board members.

Who we are

Staff team

David Rowland Director



David Rowland was appointed as CHPI's first Director in 2019 after over a decade of working in senior policy positions within the healthcare regulatory sector.

Sid Ryan Researcher



Sid Ryan is a health policy researcher and journalist with a specialism in information law.

Lizzie Feltoe Media and Communications Manager



Lizzie Feltoe has a background in social care and health policy influencing

Board members and advisors

Professor Colin Leys Trustee



Colin is an emeritus professor at Queen's University, Canada, and an honorary research professor at Goldsmiths, University of London.

Dr Jonathon Tomlinson Trustee



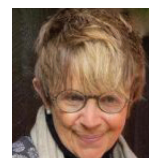
Jonathon Tomlinson is a full-time GP in Hackney, East London.

Dr David McCoy Advisor



David works for the International Institute for Global Health as part of the United Nations University.

Sue Charteris Trustee



Sue Charteris is a leadership coach to charity leaders and social entrepreneurs.

Dr Guddi Singh Trustee



Guddi is a Consultant Paediatrician and television broadcaster.

Lois Rogers Trustee



Lois is an award-winning international journalist and communications advisor specialising in healthcare, life sciences and public policy.

2022

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Centre for Health
and the
Public Interest

A high-impact low-cost think tank which seeks to advance the public interest in the debate about the future of health and social care in the UK

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