# NHS Hospitals 11% Less Productive Despite Increased Funding and Staff, Internal Review Finds



A recent internal review of the NHS has concluded that hospitals are currently 11% less productive than they were before the COVID-19 pandemic. This decline in productivity persists despite a £20 billion increase in funding since 2018 and a 15% rise in the number of doctors and nurses.

Julian Kelly, the NHS finance director, noted that staff face significant challenges in discharging patients and managing delays caused by strike actions. The review revealed that approximately a third of the productivity decrease is not captured by statistics, such as the rise in same-day discharges. However, the number of patients staying in the hospital for over three weeks has increased by 15% compared to pre-pandemic levels.

Complicating the issue, there is a significant turnover among experienced staff, with many senior doctors and nurses leaving the NHS for opportunities abroad, particularly in Ireland, Australia, and the UAE, where conditions are perceived to be better.

NHS leaders are planning to address these challenges through enhanced training, management initiatives, and modernizing computer systems. The situation is further strained by long-standing social care issues, which MPs have highlighted as a critical concern following years of inconsistent funding and inadequate staffing plans.

Additionally, reports from the General Medical Council indicate that many doctors are planning to leave the profession due to burnout and dissatisfaction. Layla McCay from the NHS Confederation emphasized the importance of making the most of available resources but acknowledged that improving productivity will remain challenging unless the government addresses the broader health issues faced by the population.