# UK General Election 2024: Parties' Health Policies Unveiled



### UK General Election 2024: Health Policy Focus

The future of the NHS is a key issue for voters as the UK heads into a general election on July 4, 2024. Both the Labour and Conservative parties have unveiled their respective plans to address the systemic issues plaguing the National Health Service, highlighted by an array of challenges ranging from long GP waits to strike actions by junior doctors.

**Labour Party Policies:**

**Junior Doctors:** Labour has not committed to meeting the British Medical Association's (BMA) demand for a 35% pay rise for junior doctors but plans to address NHS staffing issues.

**GP Access:** Labour promises to reinstate the "family doctor" model, ensuring patients see the same GP for each visit if desired. They will introduce "neighbourhood health centres" and reform the NHS App to ease appointment bookings.

**Cancer and Waiting Lists:** They pledge 2 million extra operations, scans, and appointments in their first year, funded by abolishing non-dom tax loopholes. They also plan to double the number of CT and MRI scanners.

**Mental Health:** Labour leader Keir Starmer aims to fund 8,500 new mental health staff and provide specialist mental health professionals in schools. Early intervention hubs will be available for young people.

**Conservative Party Policies:**

**Strikes:** The Conservatives have settled disputes with nurses, consultants, and paramedics. Health Secretary Victoria Atkins is in ongoing negotiations with junior doctors.

**GP Appointments:** Promised to recruit 5,000 more GPs (a target not yet met), the Government aims to end the "8am rush" for GP appointments by upgrading surgery phone systems.

**Waiting Lists:** Addressing the backlog from the pandemic, the Conservatives have linked strike actions to the slow reduction of waiting lists.

**Mental Health:** Promises include specialist mental health ambulances and universally accessible mental health support through NHS111.

**Liberal Democrat Policies:**

**GP Recruitment:** The Lib Dems, led by Sir Ed Davey, pledge to recruit 8,000 more GPs, aiming to provide an additional 65 million appointments annually. They propose legal rights for patients to see a GP within a week or 24 hours for urgent needs.

**Election Campaign:** Targeting 80 marginal Conservative seats, they argue for transforming politics to fix the health system and bolster the economy.

As the election approaches, healthcare remains a crucial issue, with voters closely watching party pledges and past performances.