POLICY DIGEST · COMPILED FROM PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS

Reform UK and the NHS

What Reform UK's published policy documents say about the NHS, doctors, nurses and health, quoted word for word.

About this page. Reform UK has not published a single NHS policy paper. Its NHS commitments are spread across several documents. This page brings them together. Every extract is quoted word for word from the source document. Each one shows the page it comes from, with links to read it in context, open the full document, and check the Reform UK original.

This is a compilation by The British Lions Roar, not an official Reform UK document. Pledges from the 2024 general-election document are kept separate, in the final section.

1 The headline commitment

Under a Reform UK Government, the NHS will remain free at the point of use and funded by general taxation.

We will improve the NHS by working to redirect funding from back office bloat back into frontline services.

Source: Reform UK headline policy 04, "Our NHS Needs Reform"

Library entry | Policy 04 graphic | Reform UK original

2 Training more British doctors

Lift the cap on medical school places, enabling hundreds of British applicants with top grades to obtain places.

Source: The First 100 Days: Our Pledges to You (2026), PDF page 6

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We will lift the cap on medical school places while maintaining high standards for entry. Our over-reliance on foreign trained doctors is a disgrace. We cannot continue in good conscience to turn away bright young British students from medical courses while we import thousands of doctors from overseas.

Source: The First 100 Days: Our Pledges to You (2026), PDF page 7

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Lifting the Cap on Medical School Places

Successive governments have failed to train anywhere near the number of doctors required to sustain the National Health Service, leaving the country reliant on doctors trained overseas while turning away fully qualified British students. Some 20,000 foreign-trained doctors joined the medical register in 2023, and 6,320 foreign-trained nurses. Meanwhile, hundreds of students with at least 3 A*s are turned away from British medical schools each year, along with many other well-qualified applicants. This is the result of a choice made by politicians eager to hold down the cost of investing in British talent. It is also a false economy. While many doctors trained overseas are talented individuals, it is clear that many are recruited from countries where educational standards are simply lower than they are in Britain. As a result, while some of the world's best medical talent is working in Britain, it is also the case that doctors trained overseas are referred to regulators with serious complaints at almost three times the rate of their British peers. Reform UK will end this reliance on poorly trained foreign doctors, while continuing to recruit high quality applicants. We will do so by lifting the cap on medical school places and training British applicants, while also maintaining high standards for entry.

Source: The First 100 Days: Our Pledges to You (2026), PDF page 8

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Lifting the cap on medical school places from 7,670 to 17,000 costs £0.7 billion in the fifth year (£1.1 billion in cash), rising to £1.7 billion a year once five cohorts are in training.

Source: The First 100 Days: Our Pledges to You (2026), PDF page 16

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This Economic Rescue Plan includes funding to increase the number of doctors and nurses we train in this country for the NHS. This includes uncapping medical school places and providing 0% student loans for nurses.

Source: Economic Rescue Plan (October 2026), PDF page 18

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3 Nurses: 0% interest student loans

Introduce 0% interest loans for nursing students.

Source: The First 100 Days: Our Pledges to You (2026), PDF page 6

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We will improve the offer to aspiring nurses, with 0% interest tuition and maintenance loans for domestic students. Being the daughter of an NHS nurse, I've seen firsthand the incredible dedication and hard work our nurses bring into work every day. They should be rewarded, not saddled with an ever growing debt pile that they have no prospect of ever paying off.

Source: The First 100 Days: Our Pledges to You (2026), PDF page 7

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0% Interest Loans for Nurses

Nurses deserve a better deal. It’s not right that the people who care for our most vulnerable graduate to mountainous debts, with interest piling up every year. The Royal College of Nursing has been clear that these debts play a significant role in discouraging those who might otherwise have considered nursing as a career. Reform UK will fix this. For British nursing students, and for British nurse graduates who are working in the NHS, loan balances will be immediately frozen in cash terms, with a 0% interest rate applied. Every nurse working in the NHS will have a visible pathway towards clearing their student debts.

Source: The First 100 Days: Our Pledges to You (2026), PDF page 9

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The 0% interest loans for nurses cost £131 million a year by the fifth year, with no cash cost within the Parliament because repayments are unchanged until a balance is cleared.

Source: The First 100 Days: Our Pledges to You (2026), PDF page 16

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4 Health training courses protected from degree cuts

We are clear, for instance, that all current courses training teachers, nurses, midwives and other allied medical professionals will be approved for loans.

Source: The First 100 Days: Our Pledges to You (2026), PDF page 8

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Reform UK would correct this. We would end taxpayer funding for the bottom 20% of degrees (i.e., course and university combinations) based on long-term economic outcomes. We would provide bridge funding for those currently enrolled when a course fails its assessment, allowing them to complete their studies. But we would not issue new loans for new students in such courses. However, courses which are of strategic or cultural importance may be approved despite low earnings if they are judged to provide value to the taxpayer (e.g., training courses for teachers, nurses, midwives and other allied medical professionals will be protected).

Source: Economic Rescue Plan (October 2026), PDF pages 21–22

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5 The money

Funding substantial tax relief while reducing the deficit requires spending cuts. We have chosen to cut spending that doesn't help ordinary British workers: welfare to foreigners, subsidies to dead-end degrees, pointless Net Zero boondoggles, an over-manned civil service, and foreign aid. Meanwhile, we have ensured money is available to fund the priorities of the British people, including training more doctors and nurses, securing our borders, and defending the realm.

Source: Economic Rescue Plan (October 2026), PDF page 18

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£bn	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32
Train our own doctors and nurses	(0.13)	(0.16)	(0.28)	(0.46)	(0.82)

Line from the Indicative Fiscal Plan table. Brackets show money spent.

Source: Economic Rescue Plan (October 2026), PDF page 31

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We would also cut the money the government spends decarbonising its own operations. This includes hidden Net Zero spending on NHS buildings, schools, the defence estate, government offices and vehicle fleets, as well as departmental Net Zero teams, campaigns, local government schemes and taxpayer-funded Net Zero bodies. Our savings only count additional costs imposed by Net Zero requirements. For example, if a school needs to be rebuilt, we would still rebuild it; we would just remove the additional cost of meeting pointless Net Zero specifications.

Source: Economic Rescue Plan (October 2026), PDF page 19

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6 Foreign nationals, health charges and NHS data

Foreign nationals will retain access to the NHS, subject to an increased Immigration Health Surcharge – which will ensure the taxpayer is not left out of pocket.

Source: Making Welfare Work, PDF page 14

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The remainder of the savings come from immigration-related savings (e.g., from abolishing ILR, deporting foreign national offenders, and increasing the immigration health surcharge) and small changes to other settings.

Source: The First 100 Days: Our Pledges to You (2026), PDF page 17

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A Reform government will create a cutting edge enforcement data centre to relentlessly identify and detain all illegal migrants in the UK. Using powers granted by the new legislation, it will automatically share data between the Home Office, NHS, HMRC, DVLA, banks and the police. It will power bulk warrants, including mandatory biometric capture during any police encounter. Each power addresses a failure mode observed over the past decade - for example, banks and GP surgeries unaware of a customer's status, or overstayers slipping through because a warrant covered only a single property.

Source: Operation Restoring Justice (August 2025), PDF page 4

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Using all the levers of state, including Local Authority and NHS data, a Reform Government will produce the first official estimate of the illegal population since 2005.

Source: Ending the Asylum Scam (October 2026), PDF page 15

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7 GPs, disability assessments and treatment

Finally, we will spend an extra £1.85 billion a year on interventions that are proven to help people stay well and off benefits. This includes cognitive behavioural therapy for mental health conditions and physiotherapy for musculoskeletal conditions. It also includes employment support funding.

Source: Making Welfare Work, PDF page 18

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The assessment would begin with structured medical evidence, collected by a GP. This would cover diagnosis, severity, duration, prognosis, treatment history, expected recovery or deterioration, treatment burden, functional impact, mobility, supervision, safeguarding risk and evidenced additional costs. GPs would certify medical facts; the Disability Needs Assessment would determine entitlements to support for.

Source: Making Welfare Work, PDF page 21

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Existing mental health or trivial condition claimants to be re-evaluated under reformed rules by GPs over 3 years.

Source: Making Welfare Work, PDF page 30

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8 What current policy does not yet cover

As of 28 October 2026, Reform UK has not published a standalone NHS policy paper. None of the current documents in this library sets out policy on NHS waiting lists, GP access, A&E or social care.

The NHS measures above are spread across documents on education, the economy, welfare and immigration. This page collects them in one place.

9 2024 manifesto pledges, not repeated in current policy

These pledges come from *Our Contract with You*, Reform UK's June 2024 general-election document. They are kept here for reference. They do not appear in Reform UK's current policy documents, and some differ from current policy. For example, the 2024 document proposed writing off student fees over 10 years of NHS service, while current policy proposes 0% interest loans for nurses.

3. Imagine No NHS Waiting Lists

Still free at the point of delivery, healthcare needs reform to improve outcomes and enjoy zero NHS waiting lists. Cut back office waste to spend more money on the frontline. Tax breaks for doctors and nurses to tackle the staffing crisis.

Source: Our Contract with You (2024 general election) (June 2024), PDF page 4

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End Doctor and Nurse Shortages

All frontline NHS and social care staff to pay zero basic rate tax for 3 years. This will help retain existing staff and attract many who have left to return. End training caps for all UK medical students. Write off student fees pro rata per year over 10 years of NHS service for all doctors, nurses and medical staff.

Source: Our Contract with You (2024 general election) (June 2024), PDF page 9

Read in context | Full document | Reform UK original

Tax Relief of 20% on all Private Healthcare and Insurance

This will improve care for all by relieving pressure on the NHS. Those who rely on the NHS will enjoy faster, better care.

Source: Our Contract with You (2024 general election) (June 2024), PDF page 9

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Put Patients in Charge With a New NHS Voucher Scheme

NHS Patients will receive a voucher for private treatment if they can’t see a GP within 3 days. For a consultant it would be 3 weeks. For an operation, 9 weeks. Services will always be free at the point of use.

Source: Our Contract with You (2024 general election) (June 2024), PDF page 9

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Save A&E

Cut waiting times with a campaign of ‘Pharmacy First, GP Second, A&E Last’. We will offer tax incentives for new pharmacies and those who employ more staff to assist in relieving pressure on A&E.

Source: Our Contract with You (2024 general election) (June 2024), PDF page 9

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NHS PLEDGES COSTS = £17 BILLION PA

Source: Our Contract with You (2024 general election) (June 2024), PDF page 9

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Commence Royal Commission of Inquiry into Social Care System

A national plan is critical for a sustainable social care system. The sector needs flexibility, tax incentives, VAT breaks and less waste. Simplify social care through a single funding stream, instead of the split between NHS and Local Authorities.

Source: Our Contract with You (2024 general election) (June 2024), PDF page 22

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