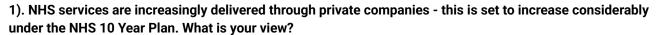


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My politics were shaped growing up in the North under Thatcher. I'm Labour through and through, and I will always fight for our party, our movement and our values.

Nothing holds greater importance to our movement than the NHS, and protecting our NHS must always be the number one mission of any Labour Government. As a longstanding member of the SHA and being married to an A & E doctor I know the damage that successive Tory Governments have done to the NHS and the transformative difference a Labour Government can make. I do however share concerns about the increasing use of private companies to deliver NHS services, and believe that putting our NHS first must mean greater insourcing. This is how we deliver better care for patients. We have promised the greatest ever wave of insourcing as a Government and it is important we are seen to be delivering on that.

I do believe this Labour Government has many achievements. This includes legislation, something I was in charge of, like the Employment Rights Bill. But some of the unforced errors that we've made have given a sense that we're not on the side of ordinary people.

As Deputy Leader I would be a strong and independent voice that bridges the gap between our movement and the leadership. The NHS will always be top of my list. I'm not built to stand aside, and I will never be scared to feedback the reality NHS professionals are experiencing on the ground to change course and set us back on track. We need to make the most of the frontline experience of NHS and social care workers who are the rocks upon which our public services are built.

2). There is no doubt that health workers and health facilities are being targeted in the ongoing genocide in Gaza - what action should the British government take to halt this and hold those responsible to account?

The scenes from Gaza are intolerable. Civilians are starving, children are suffering and far too many health and aid workers are being killed. This is heartbreaking. We were too slow to condemn what was happening there and have lost trust in some communities as a result.

Under international law, medical workers must be protected in armed conflicts. Britain has a proud history of championing international law and must continue to uphold this. We must use our international standing to call out atrocities and push for peace, and we must encourage our international allies to do the same. I believe we can use our diplomatic strength to maximise the impact of the UK recognising Palestine state. I was proud to meet with many colleagues and the Ambassador of Palestine this week to commemorate this moment - something I've long supported. I remain committed to securing a two state solution and if elected would use my position as Deputy Leader to advocate for that.



