

# In the UK illegally?



**106**  
ARRESTS  
LAST WEEK  
IN YOUR AREA\*



**GO HOME OR FACE ARREST**  
**Text HOME to 78070**  
for free advice, and help with travel documents

\*30 June - 6 July 2013 covering Barking and Dagenham, Redbridge, Barnet, Brent, Ealing and Hounslow

We can help you to return home voluntarily without fear of arrest or detention

**020 7978 6399**

[www.promogroup.co.uk](http://www.promogroup.co.uk)

# The Hostile Environment

In the UK  
illegally?

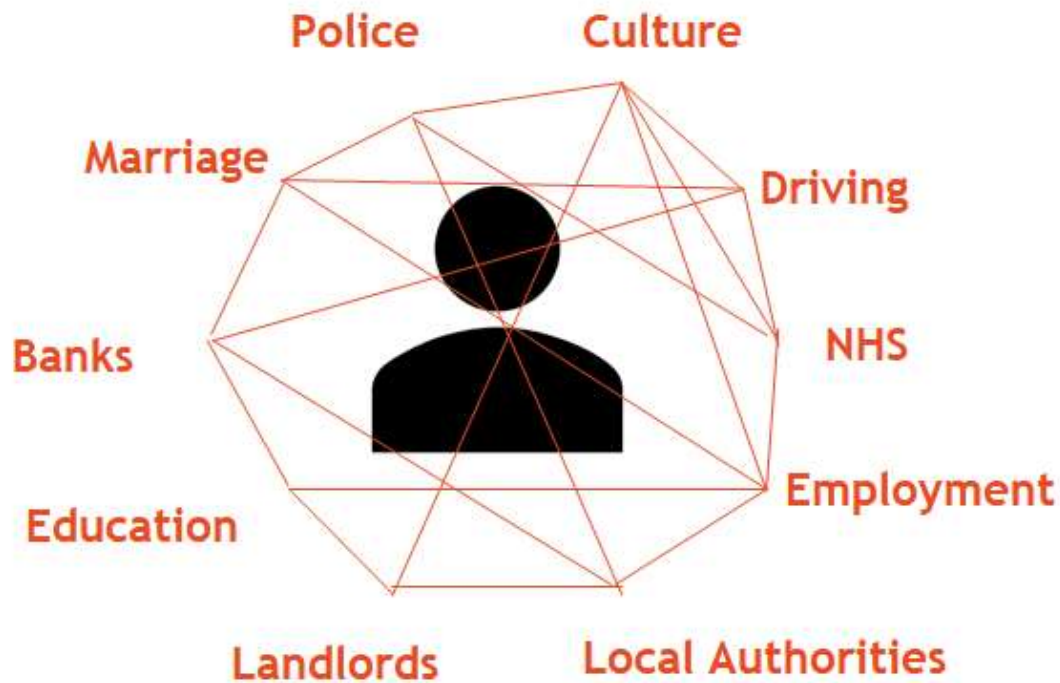
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Legal Aid Cuts

Lack of safeguards  
for vulnerable  
individuals

Indefinite detention  
system

Stricter immigration  
rules - enforcement

# Education

- Schools collecting data on pupil's nationality and country of birth
- Data passed to the Home Office and used for Immigration Enforcement
- Schools ABC ran successful boycott of the school census
- New guidance in 2018 ended mandatory collection of the data
- Still not deleted the data held





# Police

- Police passing information on victims of crime to the Home Office
- Led to the deportation of people reporting serious crime to the police
- Legal action threatened by Liberty
- New guidance at the end of 2018 ended automatic reporting

## Police to stop passing on immigration status of crime victims

New measures include ban on officers checking computer solely to see if someone has leave to remain in UK



▲ Police say they have been perceived as being too close to deportation authorities. Photograph: Bloomberg/Bloomberg via Getty Images

Police will cease to automatically pass information about people suspected of being in the country illegally to deportation authorities if they come forward as victims of crime, according to a new policy hammered out in the wake of the **Windrush scandal**, the Guardian has learned.

# Right to Rent

- Landlords forced to check tenants immigration status before renting to them - facing £3k fine if they do not
- JCWI research showed people who are not UK citizens, or who have a 'foreign sounding' name were less likely to be rented to
- Then won legal challenge, judgement called the policy discriminatory and said it fuelled racism
- Government appealing claiming discrimination justified



# Local Authorities

- Home Office providing support to public services to identify and deport people
- Officers cost £60p/h and are offered to Local Authorities, NHS Trusts and private companies
- Local campaigns fighting Hostile Environment in Councils
- Haringey Welcome succeeded in passing Welcome Motion and getting Council to lead on statement supporting migrant rough sleepers

## Home Office staff sit in on council interviews with migrant families

**Critics say practice risks deterring destitute families from accessing support**



▲ The revelations will add to wider concerns about the Home Office's role in local authority work. Photograph: Kirsty O'Connor/PA

Home Office workers embedded in local councils are sitting in on interviews with destitute migrant families and gathering personal information on subjects ranging from health conditions to how their children are doing at school, the Guardian has learned.

# The NHS



## Nationality is not a passport for free healthcare

If you are a British national living abroad, you may have to pay for NHS hospital treatment. Before you travel - please make sure you have health insurance or have an EHIC from the country you currently reside in.

For more information go to [www.nhs.uk/visitingengland](http://www.nhs.uk/visitingengland)



## NHS healthcare is not free for everyone

If you are visiting England or not living here on a lawful and settled basis, you may have to pay for your hospital treatment.

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# The NHS

- Charging



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# NHS - Charging

The National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) (Amendment) Regulations 2015



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# NHS - Charging

The National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) (Amendment) Regulations

2015

Introduced the Immigration Health Surcharge & 150% retrospective charge on *secondary care* at Trust's discretion



# NHS nurse forced to send children home to Kenya because she couldn't afford Home Office health surcharge

Evaline Omondi says it was an 'awful moment' when she realised she would have to scatter family

**Alex Matthews-King** Health Correspondent |

Saturday 12 May 2018 00:06 | 27 comments





# NHS - Charging

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2017



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2017

Introduction of **upfront charging** for 'non-urgent' secondary care; ID checks; expansion of charging into community care & mental health treatment.



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# The NHS



- Charging

- ID Checks

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# NHS - ID Checks



**London NW Healthcare @LNWH\_NHS** · Apr 12

From 1 May, non-emergency patients for maternity & cardiology must provide proof of ID & address at 1st appointment: [lnwh.nhs.uk/ID](https://lnwh.nhs.uk/ID)

From 1 May non-emergency patients attending their **first maternity or cardiology** appointment will need to provide two forms of identification





# NHS - ID Checks

## 8,900 checks on NHS 'health tourists' find just 50 liable to pay

ROSS LYDALL Health Editor | Tuesday 29 May 2018 11:54



# The NHS

- Charging
- ID Checks
- Data Sharing

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# NHS - Data Sharing

- Previously Home Office could request bulk data from the NHS - suspended following legal challenge
- NHS Trusts report patients to Home Office when they have debt more than £500 for more than 2 months
- As part of the processes of assessing patient's eligibility for care

## Home Office scraps scheme that used NHS data to track migrants

Secret data-sharing deal dropped after legal action by Migrants' Rights Network



# NHS - Impact

- Fear and deterrence
- People forced to choose between destitution and good health
- Traps people in irregularity

## NHS denied treatment for migrants who can't afford upfront charges

Experts warn that 'hostile' approach risks worsening the health of already sick patients



▲ Barbara Wright, whose sick mother died after an NHS hospital refused to pay for her care. Pencil by the City



Health

# NHS fees: 'Couple couldn't take baby's body home'

By Catrin Nye  
Victoria Derbyshire programme

© 10 July 2019



# NHS - Economy

- Governments own estimate?
- People don't stop getting sick
- Preventative care is cheaper & better
- Difficult to measure the cost of deterrence
- Who gets billed and can they pay

## Free at the point of use? NHS employs debt-collectors over 'health tourism'



*Of 111 hospitals that responded to a Freedom of Information (FOI) request, more than 100 that they currently use debt collectors or had done in the past\*\**

**How many Trusts are monitoring the impact of NHS Charging?**

**0**



# Patients Not Passports



RICHMOND HOUSE

77 WHITEHALL

NO BORDERS  
IN THE NHS

DOCS  
NOT COPS







KEEP YOUR  
RACISM OUT  
OF MY WOMB

WHO YOU ARE  
WHERE YOU'RE FROM  
I AM YOUR DOCTOR  
#OURNHS

NO BORDERS IN THE  
NHS  
DOCSNOTCOPS.CO.UK

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NOT  
OUR

Passport checks for patients is an abandonment of NHS principles

*Zoe Stewart*

It is a founding tenet of the NHS that everybody has a right to healthcare. It's simply not true that 'health tourists' are to blame for the cash crisis

## **A&E Nurse Describes 'Inhumane' Way Woman With Sepsis Was Treated 'Due To Anti-Health Tourism Policy'**

'I was delayed in treating her'.

Voices

*The NHS is interfering with immigrants' visa applications if they don't pay up their hospital debts*

Wealthy visitors will pay for NHS treatment and those navigating the labyrinthine Home Office immigration system will be left to suffer

Voices

*Today marks the day when a founding principle of the NHS is destroyed - and doctors like me are being told to help*

We doctors are trained to make decisions based on the best evidence and that will cause the least harm and it's no mistake that the damaging policy of checking patient passports is being kept from us

Columnists [Cartoons](#) [Opinion videos](#) [Letters](#)

As a doctor, I can see that denying NHS care to immigrants is inhumane

*Kitty Worthing*

## **As A Nurse, I'm Not Surprised The Government Warped Facts About NHS Migrant Fraud**

'Health tourism' accounts for only 0.3% of the NHS budget - healthcare workers like me are pushing back against dangerous rhetoric



Passport checks for patients  
abandonment of NHS  
**Charging for Health**  
*Zoe Stewart*

Immigration Act 2014

It is a founding tenet of the NHS that everybody has access to healthcare. It's simply not true that 'health tourists' are to blame for the cash crisis

**A&E Nurse Describes 'Inhuman' Treatment of a Woman With Sepsis Was Told to Charge for Her Care**  
**Anti-Health Tourism Policy**

*'I was delayed in treating her.'*  
Voices  
By Jack Summers  
**The NHS is interfering with immigrants' visa applications. They don't pay up their hospital bills.**

Wealthy visitors will pay for NHS treatment and those navigating the system will be left to suffer



**The real cost of Meghan & Harry's £2.4m home refurb? Our goodwill**  
SARAH VINE, SEE PAGE 19

**DOCTORS: IT'S RACIST TO CHARGE NHS HEALTH TOURISTS**

BMA accused of 'inviting whole world in' as it calls for foreign patient fees to be axed

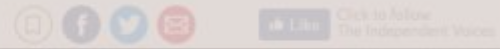
**DOCTORS** have voted to stop billing foreign patients for NHS care. Alinea lacking the routine said charging visitors made medical staff 'resentful in their jobs'. The 100 delegates voted overwhelmingly in favour of abolition - an act compliant to the profession's ethos. Doctors who opposed the move were booed as they spoke. Conservative MP said that spending on the NHS to the rest of the world was negligible when its resources were so stretched. Health tourism is thought to cost everything from £200,000 to £1m a year. **Turn to Page 4**



Royal Free: Meghan, Harry and baby Archie

**Why when a founding NHS is destroyed - and being told to help**

best evidence and that will cause the least harm and patient passports is being kept from us



see that denying grants is inhumane



**Not Surprised The NHS is not surprised The risks costing the lives of people. Fact Facts About NHS**

of the NHS budget - back against dangerous

Passport checks for pa  
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Like Follow  
The Independent Voice

see that denying  
grants is inhumane

**Not Surprised The  
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back against dangerous







# Workplace Organising

- Decentralised network of groups
- Working to their local context
- Pushing institutions to oppose the policy
- Led by local knowledge
- Create safe space for sharing stories
- Educate & Inform
- Support advocacy, but guide towards broader goals



# Collaboration

- Build broad links in the community
- Speak with many voices
- Take on different roles
- Work towards the same goals
- Institutional collaboration
- Legitimise opposition

## Fury as London's biggest NHS trust demands patients prove they have right to free care

ROSS LYDALL HEALTH EDITOR | Wednesday 12 September 2018 12:01 | [10 comments](#)



# Talking Sense to Power

- Make clear demands
- Aim high
- Give them the language they need
- Call them in
- Use your unique position to frame demand

We call on you to:

1. **Suspend upfront charging in the Trust** - Suspend upfront charging for overseas visitors with immediate effect, and undertake and publish a full public health impact assessment of the charging regulations.
2. **Suspend ID checks in the Trust** - Suspend the pilot scheme requiring patients to bring 2 forms of ID to access Maternity care at Newham and Renal care at the Royal London. Stop using the appointment pre-attendance form to ask patients to provide unnecessary demographic information which can then be passed to the Home Office. These forms act as a deterrent and stop people attending appointments.
3. **Properly evaluate the impact of charging on patient care** - Undertake detailed research into the impact of both charging and ID checks on patients' health and on the Trust's ability to meet its equality duty, and other legal obligations including professional duties of care staff have towards their patients.
4. **Call on Government to suspend charging in the NHS** - Represent the serious concerns of healthcare workers and patients to Government. The impact of charging on patient care and public health must be properly evaluated, nationwide.

Show your support by signing your name

First Name \*



- London

- Barts

- Homerton

- St Georges

- Lewisham

- Birmingham

- Bristol

- Brighton

- Cambridge

- Hastings

- Liverpool

- Manchester

- Oxford

- Sheffield

- Glasgow

- Swansea



# A statement from Royal Liverpool healthcare workers on healthcare charges

by James Skinner | Mar 19, 2019 | Sign-Ons, Human Rights

*"As a doctor I find it appalling that my employer could encourage me to provide substandard care for a patient because of their nationality. Recently I saw 'cost recovery staff' document in a very sick young female's notes that staff should "refrain from providing non-urgent treatment because she is chargeable for her care and has not yet paid a deposit". Patients will suffer. Either through direct clinical neglect, or (more likely) through delayed presentation to health services due to fear of financial ruin or being reported to authorities."*

– Junior Doctor, Royal Liverpool University Hospital

The following statement is written by healthcare workers Royal Liverpool University Hospital in response to the introduction of ID checks and upfront charging in our workplace. Every day we see the devastating impacts of this policy.





ALTHAM STREET  
NHS  
**NHS**  
FIGHT FOR IT  
OR LOSE IT

WE DON'T WANT TO BE INSIDE  
35 CHILDREN CHARGED  
**HOSPITALS SHOULDN'T BE A HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT**  
WELCOME TO THE NHS  
35

- Meetings
  - Helthcare workers only
  - With the Community
- Open Letters
  - From Healthcare workers
  - From the community
- Surveys

- Stalls outside hospitals
- Street Stalls
- Demonstrations on site & at the AGM
- Using the Council through Health Scrutiny Board
- Trainings in Hospitals



# Scrap upfront NHS charges for migrants, says BMA

Policy has resulted in deaths and been heavily criticised by MPs and health charities



▲ Hospitals in England are mandated to check on the eligibility of overseas visitors to free NHS care. Photograph: Peter Byrne/PA

Britain's doctors have urged ministers to scrap controversial rules that force migrants to pay upfront before they can receive **NHS** care for serious illnesses such as cancer.

The British Medical Association has become the first body representing medical staff to call for the complete abolition of the charges, which have been criticised by MPs and health charities.

# Medical colleges criticise charging migrants upfront for NHS care

Policy has public health implications and is damaging doctors' morale, letter says



▲ The groups want an independent review of how the policy affects migrants' access to healthcare. Photograph: Peter Byrne/PA

Representatives of more than 70,000 doctors have urged ministers to suspend regulations that force hospitals to charge overseas visitors upfront for **NHS** care.

Three royal medical colleges and one faculty say the charging regime is harming people's health by deterring them from seeking care.



A toolkit designed to support you in **advocating for people facing charges for NHS care**, and in taking action to **end immigration checks and upfront charging in the NHS**.

[Support someone being charged for care](#)

[Learn about charging and the "Hostile Environment"](#)

[Campaign to end charging in your local area](#)



[Step by step advocacy guide](#)

**For health workers**

[Start here](#)



[Step by step advocacy guide](#)

**For community members**

[Start here](#)





PatientsNotPassports.co.uk

A toolkit designed to support you in advocating for your patients and in taking action to end immigration checks and upfront charging in the NHS.

Developed by







# Patients Not Passports

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Challenging healthcare charging in the NHS



The NHS was designed to be a universal health service, free for all that need it. This is no longer the case.

As part of its Hostile Environment immigration policies, the Government has been restricting access to care for some people. This drastic shift away from the founding principles of the NHS is having a devastating impact on patients who are unable to pay. The policy is changing the culture in our health service, making charging for treatment acceptable and opening the door to a system where access to care is dependent on ability to pay.

The policy is unworkable. The Windrush Scandal is the most prominent example of people denied life-saving cancer treatment or deterred from seeking care until they are critically ill. The policy embeds discrimination and racial profiling in the NHS, as people have their entitlement to care challenged on the basis of their appearance, their name, or their accent. There is no evidence the policy saves any money, instead it can lead to dangerous delays in treatment and more pressure on emergency care, at increased cost to the NHS and with much worse outcomes for patients and for the health of the public more generally. You can take action today to help end charging in the NHS. Join us in writing to the Department of Health and Social Care to tell them that we won't stand by while they force the NHS to deny care to people who can't pay.

Send your message by filling out the following form

Dear Secretary of State for Health and Social Care,

(you can customise your message below)

I am writing to express my dismay about the charging regime being introduced in the NHS and to demand that you take action to protect the NHS.

The Department of Health and Social Care is undermining the founding principles of our health service by charging people for using the NHS. There is clear evidence of the devastating impact of NHS charging on the lives of individuals and wider communities.

I support the positions of the British Medical Association (BMA) and the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges in calling for an end to charging and an independent review into the impact of the policy on individual and public health.

I call on the Department of Health and Social Care to commit to

First Name \*

Last Name \*

Email \*

# Recap

- Trusts are key to overturning the regulations
- Workplace organising, combined with organising in communities around the trust, both those affected and NHS campaigners
- Escalating strategy:  
educate/inform → legitimise → actions & demos.
- Speaking with many voices, each from their strength
- Use the resources we have available

**We don't all need to do all of these all the time!**

The movement doing all of this is what we need to win







**JamesSkinner@Medact.org**

**@Medact**