

THE IRISH HEALTH SERVICE – FIGHTING THE RACE TO THE BOTTOM

Presentation by SIPTU Divisional Organiser, Paul Bell at European
Action Day against the Commercialisation of Healthcare



OVERVIEW

“IT IS WHAT IT IS”

- NHS vs HSE - A National Institution
- 1977 And Through The “Emergency” Budget Cuts
- Expenditure GDP Ratio Comparison And Funding
- Political Strategies From “Angola” To Roscommon
- Vested Interests Not Always Patient Interests



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DOING MORE WITH LESS

- **2.7bn** cut from the system since 2009;
- **-12,000** less HSE staff than when the recession began;
- **-A 21,000 inpatient drop and 30,000 day case drop between 2012 and 2014.**
- **-A near €100m cut to the cost of the drugs payment reimbursement scheme.** This fall has been caused by changes on who is eligible to receive the support, which is “in effect a direct transfer of costs from the State onto patients”.
- **-A trebling of people waiting over six and 12 months for inpatient and day-case hospital treatment;**
- **-941 less beds** in the public hospital system;
- **-And the loss of two million home help hours a year, from 11 million in 2006 to nine million at the end of last year.**



CHALLENGES FOR THE HEALTH SERVICE IN IRELAND

- Mental Health
- Aging population
- Intellectual Disability
- Community Services
- Ambulance Services
- Recruitment And Retention Of Staff – Over reliance on Agency



ALL EMBRACING HEALTH SERVICE: A TRADE UNION PERSPECTIVE

- Providers
- Access – Free at the point of usage
- Funding – Publicly funded model
- Standards - HIQA
- Investment In People – Training and Development
- Community Roles
- Expanding the Health Carers Role



NO PRESCRIBED **SOLUTIONS PLEASE**



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