

Siân Berry

Green Party MP candidate
for Brighton Pavilion

 @SianBerry

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Johnbosco Nwogbo
Lead Campaigner, We Own It
By email to info@weownit.org.uk

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Dear Johnbosco,

My support for the Pledge for the NHS

Thank you so much for your work to ensure that supporting and restoring the NHS is put to prospective MPs in this election. In Caroline Lucas, Brighton Pavilion has had a strong, independent Green MP standing up for the founding principles of the NHS for fourteen years and, as Green candidate for MP, I am determined to bring the same values into my work

In Brighton, concern about the future of the NHS has been the top issue brought to me by constituents on doorsteps, and in emails, surveys and letters. People tell me they are well aware the threat comes from decisions being made in Westminster which need to be challenged. They know that a publicly run NHS that is properly funded will bring the best results for people seeking care, staff and medical professionals alike, and they want me to stand up for it.

Green MPs will work hand in hand with your campaigns, NHS workers and citizens to push the next Government to defend and restore our NHS, and I hope that my answers to your three pledges clearly show this commitment.

Pledge 1. Reinstate the Health Secretary's legal duty to provide healthcare to all (repealed in the 2012 Health and Social Care Act)

I support this pledge. After the Health and Social Care Act became law in 2012, this duty was removed, and we can all see the consequences in terms of the loss of top-level accountability and creeping outsourcing and privatisation of services further and further away from the public sector. In 2015, Caroline Lucas' NHS Reinstatement Bill set out a Green blueprint to reverse the damage caused by both Labour and Conservative governments pursuing an agenda that the market could solve our problems.¹ To get back to the founding principles of the NHS, this restored duty is absolutely vital.

Pledge 2. Give the NHS £40 billion more per year to catch up with equivalent European countries (according to Health Foundation)

I support this pledge. Evidence from a range of international comparisons with similar countries show that the NHS needs tens of billions in additional funding to make sure medical professionals can carry out their work effectively, and that we all get the healthcare we need. I am committed to an NHS funding increase that meets this challenge and to making the case whenever necessary in Parliament if I am elected.

Pledge 3. Bring services outsourced to for-profit companies back into the NHS as their contracts end

I support this pledge. There is no place for profit in the NHS. Privatisation and outsourcing carry clear risks to the quality of care and the integration of services (for example it has been shown that in-house cleaning services lead to cleaner hospitals and fewer infections), and create higher costs to the public purse if payments have to provide not just the cost of the service but also shareholder dividends and company profits. Private providers are also less accountable to the public and their representatives when things go wrong. The private sector is always circling, and we must restore the NHS to its founding principles.

My very best wishes,



Siân Berry
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1. Bill detail on Parliament website: <https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/1663>. Report from second reading in Parliament in 2016. <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2016/jan/26/caroline-lucas-green-party-labour-repeal-tory-nhs-reforms>