

I left the NHS *because* it was unethical!

Resignation came after 25 years in the Service and 8 years as consultant surgeon at a University Hospital.

My departure was driven by the loss of command and control of (my) patients' journey from community to hospital and back.

I was stopped from seeing new patients for more than a year because of the number of referrals generated. A system where surgeon A saw new patients, surgeon B operated on them and surgeon C reviewed them, was endorsed.

Is that professional or ethical?

Profit ?! Well, doctors in the NHS are addicted to a salary and pension. Like their patients, few precisely appreciate the high costs of care. They don't have to! It's not their business. Independent practitioners are acutely aware of outgoings. To survive they have to be effective in both service and performance. Nowadays outcomes are under rigorous scrutiny. Charlatans may fool some of the people some of the time but not all of the people all of the time!

I now work in an independent practice, which *I* finance and manage. My patients are funded by insurance schemes, their savings, or the State. Someone has to pay for health. The sooner Society gets that clear, the better.

The monopoly of the NHS needs to be challenged to improve. We simply cannot afford not to.