

24 major reforms to the NHS since 1990

The source for the following data and the commentary is the [NHS Reform Timeline](#), published by the Nuffield Trust.

1990 NHS spending 4.0% of GDP

1. NHS reorganisation: Creation of an internal market is facilitated through the National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990.

1991 NHS spending 4.3% of GDP

2. The Patient's Charter.

1994 NHS spending 4.8% of GDP

3. NHS reorganisation: The number of regional health authorities is reduced to eight.

1997 NHS spending 4.6% of GDP

4. Primary Care Act

1998 NHS spending 4.7% of GDP

5. National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is established.
6. NHS Direct established

1999 NHS spending 4.7% of GDP

7. The Royal Commission on Long Term Care reviews the options for the ongoing funding of long-term care of older people.

2000 NHS spending 4.9% of GDP

8. The most expensive breakfast.
9. The NHS Plan – a 10-year modernisation programme of investment and reform.

2002 NHS spending 5.5% of GDP

10. NHS reorganisation: District health authorities are replaced by strategic health authorities (SHAs) and primary care trusts (PCTs). The concept of foundation trusts is investigated.
11. The Wanless Review paves the way for unprecedented increases in NHS funding.

2003 NHS spending 5.9% of GDP

12. New contracts for GPs and hospital consultants are agreed, changing the delivery of services to patients.
13. NHS reorganisation: The Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003.

2006 NHS spending 6.4% of GDP

14. NHS reorganisation: Strategic health authorities (SHAs) are reduced from 28 to 10. The number of primary care trusts (PCTs) falls from 303 to 152.

2008 NHS spending 7.0% of GDP

15. Health Minister, Lord Darzi, leads what becomes known as the 'NHS next stage review' and outlines his 10-year vision for the NHS in the report, High quality care for all.

2009 NHS spending 7.6% of GDP

16. The NHS Constitution is published, outlining a revised set of rights and responsibilities for patients and staff.
17. A new health and social care regulator, the Care Quality Commission (CQC), is created.

2011 NHS spending 7.4% of GDP

18. NHS reorganisation: The Health and Social Care Bill 2010/11 proposes significant reforms to increase the influence of GPs on commissioning, increase competition and abolish strategic health authorities (SHAs) and primary care trusts (PCTs).
19. The Dilnot Review into the funding of adult social care calls for major reforms.

2014 NHS spending 7.3% of GDP

20. NHS England publishes its *Five Year Forward View*.

2017 NHS spending 7.2% of GDP

21. NHS England publishes *Next steps on the Five Year Forward View*.

2019 NHS spending 7.1% of GDP

22. A new contract for general practice is agreed between the BMA and NHS England
23. NHS England publishes the *Long Term Plan*.

2022 NHS spending 9.9% of GDP

24. Health and Care Act 2022