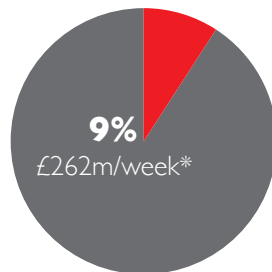


The Impact of Brexit on the NHS

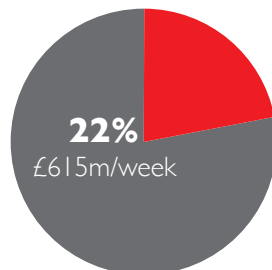


Cost of each Brexit option as a percentage of the 2018 NHS Budget

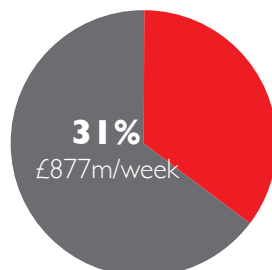
NORWAY DEAL
(EEA RULES)



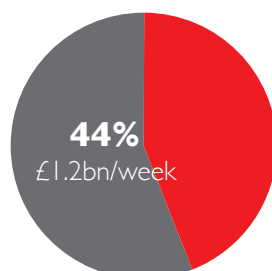
MAY'S PREFERRED BESPOKE OPTION



CANADA DEAL
(FTA RULES)



NO DEAL
(WTA RULES)



Source: In Facts/The Guardian

* Cost per week in 2033-2034 at 2018 prices

All parties, Leavers and Remainers

are agreed that Brexit will have a major negative impact on the economy. For **Leavers**, this will be temporary and is a price worth paying for the other supposed benefits of Brexit. For **Remainers**, this will be a self-inflicted injury from which UK is unlikely to recover economically for many years, indeed decades, and Brexit will have many other catastrophic effects.

For **Stockport NHS Watch**, the main concern will be the impact of Brexit on the NHS. There will be a loss of a source of talented staff from the EU, which is particularly serious at present given that the NHS has 100,000 vacancies. Current extensive collaboration with EU on the supply of medicine and equipment and research into the development and delivery of new treatments will be badly affected. And new trade deals with e.g. USA will almost certainly require opening up the NHS to take over by rapacious multinational health providers. The present note, however, is focused on the impact on NHS funding.

In our post card, we have highlighted the difference between Lies, that, for example, Brexit will bring an added £350 million/week to NHS and Truth, that the NHS will be poorer. We have estimated that NHS funding will be reduced by at least 20% in the medium to long term as a result of Brexit.

This is based on several considerations. **Firstly**, the Prime Minister's deal will reduce GDP, and hence funding available to spend on public services (see picture below). The overall estimated figure is **20%**. The most likely alternative deal, **Canada**, will reduce public service funding by **31%**. This figure will rise to **44%** if we crash out with **No Deal**. The NHS will take a high proportion of this hit.

Secondly, the need to fill staffing vacancies as a result of the loss of healthcare workers from the EU will vastly increase agency costs, which are already consuming huge quantities of NHS funds.

Thirdly, medicines and medical devices will become much more expensive as suppliers see an opportunity to raise prices when UK leaves various agencies which allow control of costs. There are already some staggering examples of this opportunism in the USA which indicate the way things will go in a dog-eat-dog free market. For all of these reasons, the estimate of a 20% or more impact of Brexit on NHS funding as flagged up on our post card seems a responsible figure for the negative NHS 'Brexit dividend'.

There will be other appalling consequences of our jettisoning what remains of our values as we travel the world in pursuit of trade deals, but the effect on the NHS is the most immediate concern of Stockport NHS Watch.

Raymond Tallis December 2018