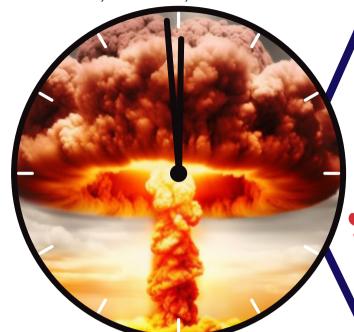




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As major report warns health service is in a 'critical condition', Starmer vows its biggest EVER overhaul – but can he deliver?

By Shaun Wooller **Health Editor**

THE NHS must 'reform or die', Keir Starmer will warn today.

The Prime Minister will set out plans for the 'biggest reimagining' of the health service since its birth in 1948.

He will pledge to cut waiting times and improve access in a bid to tackle the nation's ill health and get the sick back to work. It is expected to involve shifting billions of pounds of funding from inefficient hospitals to community care, with a new focus on preventing

people getting unwell in the first place.

The radical overhaul comes after a damning report by Lord Darzi, a pioneering surgeon and former Labour health minister, concluded that the NHS was in a 'critical condition'.

Health Secretary Wes Streeting commissioned the review, which was conducted in just nine weeks and will underpin the Govern-

ment's ten-year plan for reform.

The Tories last night accused Mr Streeting of 'trying to chase headlines while laying the groundwork for tax rises at the Budget'.

And health experts said the Government must set out a plan explaining how it will respond to the review.

Lord Darzi, who now sits as an independent

Holly turns her back on troubles at National VAwards **SEE PAGES 2-3**