

'We've closed all of Cornwall down for three people in hospital': Healthcare assistant who publicly resigned claiming she had 'no work to do for three weeks' at peak of the pandemic says claim the NHS is overrun is 'all lies'

- Shelley Tasker, 43, from Camborne, Cornwall, resigned from Treliske hospital
- Healthcare assistant made speech outside Truro cathedral and revealed what's been going on behind closed doors of NHS hospitals
- Claims she had no work for three weeks at height of pandemic due to no patients

By [CHLOE MORGAN FOR MAILONLINE](#)

PUBLISHED: 11:53, 5 November 2020 | **UPDATED:** 17:01, 5 November 2020

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A whistleblower **NHS** healthcare assistant who publicly resigned after claiming she had 'no work for three weeks' at the height of the pandemic has said the claim the NHS is overrun is 'all lies.'

A viral **Facebook** video shows Shelley Tasker, 43 - a healthcare assistant at Treliske hospital, which is part of the Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust - telling members of the public what is 'really going on' behind closed doors in NHS hospitals.

In the clip filmed outside Truro Cathedral with a crowd gathering, Shelley, who is a mother and part-time photographer from Camborne, Cornwall, takes to a microphone and says: 'As much as I've always loved our NHS, it's no longer our NHS. It's run by the corrupt government and the people running this company.'

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'We no longer have health care, we can't see dentists. I can tell you now when I was working at the height of the pandemic I had no work for three weeks because there were no patients. We have a particular **Covid** ward. None of the wards were overflowing with Covid patients and they're not now.'

She went on to claim that the flu and Covid cases are now recorded as 'the same thing' on death certificates.

In response to cheers from the crowd, she continues: 'I can tell you on Friday in Treliske there were three people in with Covid. No extra deaths, three - and that covers Treliske, West Cornwall and Hayle hospital.'

'The total deaths from these three hospitals in seven months, is 76 people - that's about ten people a month over the last seven months, and we have locked down.'

NHS figures show that 67 people died from Covid-19 at Treliske hospital between March and September, and official data seems to back up her point - there were just four people with the virus receiving care at the Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust on October 29.

Speaking exclusively to FEMAIL about the figures the government are presenting to the public, Shelley claimed: 'It's all lies. We've closed all of Cornwall down for three people in hospital.'

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<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-8916871/Whistleblower-NHS-worker-reveals-whats-REALLY-going-NHS-hospitals.html#v-143877917916614435>

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© Charlie Rainbow

Charlie Rainbow took to Facebook to share a video of Cornwall Freedom Rally speech from Shelley Tasker (pictured) as she publicly resigned



© Charlie Rainbow

NHS worker Shelley (pictured) claimed that when she was working at the height of the pandemic she had no work for three weeks because there were no patients

Maxine Daisy Diamond
 Brilliant brave lady. More NHS staff need to speak the truth, this is the most important issue you will ever face. Ask yourself why are they do this?

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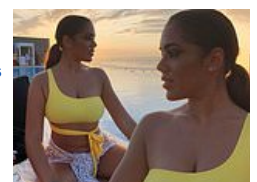
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Jo Freedom

fantastic well done for speaking the truth

The Facebook page was quickly flooded with comments, including one person who wrote: 'Fantastic. Well done for speaking the truth' (pictured)

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'They haven't even died - they've supposedly got COVID. How many people are going to die because of this?'

'There's a massive agenda going on here and people need to start realising.'

Speaking about her decision to address the topic publicly, Shelley, whose main aim was encourage 'other people would come forward,' explained: 'It's been a long time coming.'

'I've kept quiet and people needed to see those figures.'

'I think lots of people are now questioning things. That's got to be good because the world can't carry on as it is.'

She went on to say she will 'absolutely' not be adhering to the rules of second lockdown.

'I will be doing everything I want to do. If I want to see my friends...To be honest with you, we won't be going to pubs or anything like that, nothing will change for me,' she said.

'I don't have massive gatherings and stuff like that.'

'There will be protests and we've got to carry on protesting. I will walk my dog and go to the beach and things like that.'

'I don't think there's a restriction on exercise and stuff. I haven't looked too much into it to be honest with you.'

'No way it's going to happen for me, and it's not going to be happening for loads

ARE CORNWALL'S HOSPITALS REALLY THAT EMPTY?

Ms Tasker claimed there were just three patients in the Royal Cornwall Hospital, formerly and still commonly known as the Treliske Hospital, last Friday.

And official data seems to back up her point - there were just four people with the virus receiving care at the Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust on October 29.

For comparison, the trust - which also includes West Cornwall Hospital and St Michael's Hospital - was treating 32 Covid-19 patients at once at the height of the pandemic. But even then, it was nowhere close to being over-run by the infected.

However, Cornwall has yet to be hit by the second wave of the pandemic, with northern areas and the Midlands bearing the brunt this time around.

The fact hospitals have been filling up in hotspots has been used to justify the second national lockdown, with gloomy health bosses warning the NHS could run out of beds nationally in weeks.

But many parts of the NHS, particularly in the south, still lie empty because so many people are still hesitant to use its services for fear of catching Covid-19 or being a burden on the health service.

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of people.

'People haven't got time to be reporting if there's seven people in the house - the police aren't going to come out for that.

'There's nothing that really needs to change for me. I'm just advising everybody to carry on as normal as they can't do anything.'

A spokesperson for Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust told MailOnline: 'We're in the middle of a once in a lifetime pandemic and it is unacceptable for anybody to spread lies which could be harmful to people's health, let alone from somebody in a respected position.

'The public's incredible support for the NHS played a major role in helping us handle the first wave of coronavirus, and as we face a potential second wave, it is absolutely vital our staff and the public follow the latest public health guidance to help keep us all safe.'

In the viral clip, Shelley starts her speech by saying: 'Today I am publicly resigning OK? I am wearing this uniform sadly for the last time.

'I absolutely loved my job, those of you who have been following what's going on, we've done tasks, we've organised protests, I've had a lot of flack.

'We're at the point now it's all coming back to me. I've had an email from work last night asking me what's going on, people are reporting me and unfortunately I can't lie any more.

'I did something really bad. I took a screenshot on Friday which shows the figures of how many people are in Treliske hospital with Covid and I shared it, because this should be public information.'

'Lots of people have to start speaking out, there's lot of doctors and nurses who have come forward. They're all on restrictive duties, they're all seeing solicitors etc.'

Some fear this could change in an instant, however, if infections continue to rise because southern hospitals have much less capacity.

SAGE - the Government's Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies - warned the Government the NHS was on track to be completely overwhelmed by the end of this month.

The dire forecast was made using mathematical models that were a month out of date and high low confidence intervals.

The prediction has since been challenged by top scientists and doctors who say the modelling did not anticipate how effective the three-tier lockdown system would be.

Boris Johnson admitted yesterday his localised approach was driving down cases and the R rate in hotspots.



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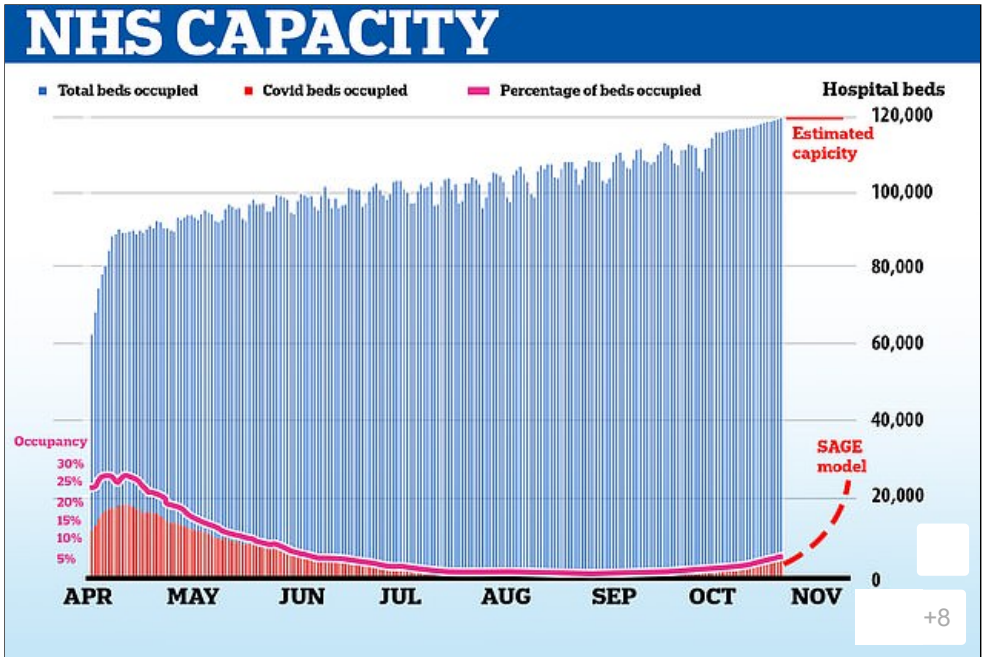


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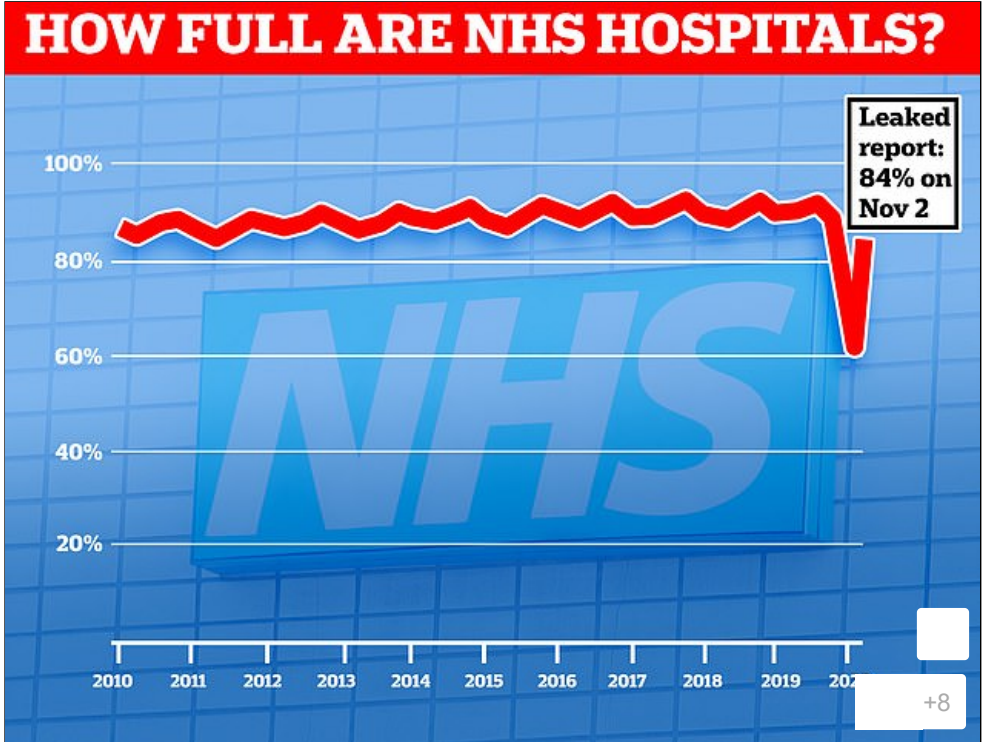


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Even during the peak of the first wave of coronavirus in the UK, Covid-19 patients never accounted for more than 30 per cent of all hospital patients and tens of thousands of vacated beds went unused during the spring



A leaked NHS report suggests there are still fewer than average numbers of beds in use in NHS hospital, despite normal hospital care resuming and a surge in the number of people who are being treated for Covid-19

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Shelley says that on Friday in Treliske there were three people in with Covid - which covers Treliske, West Cornwall and Hayle hospital

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▶ Rebekah Vardy wraps up against the autumn



During the speech, Shelley (pictured) went on to claim that the flu and Covid cases are now combined as the same thing

'I've decided there's no point, I have gone against the rules of the NHS and have shared confidential information that people need to see.'

Shelley goes on to allege that anyone who thinks lockdown is going to make a difference are 'completely wrong.'

'Our economy is going to crash, small businesses, people are going to starve,' she says.

'You think it's going to be a month? We were flattening the curve back in April - and this was when the disease was supposedly dying out. The lockdown came in then.'

'Why are our children allowed to go to school but we have to carry on? Because at the moment, they want us to work.'

'But that's not going to happen because the schools will be closed soon.'

'So the cases in the hospital, there's three people in Treliske hospital with Covid - that was on Friday.'

She went on to claim that the flu and Covid cases are now recorded as the same thing.

'If you died with Covid within 28 days that goes on your death certificate,' she explains. 'You may not realise as well that the flu numbers have gone right down. Where have they gone?'

'The PCR tests were not designed for diagnosing this disease - 94 per cent of them are false positives. We say no, to no more lockdowns.'

► chill as she attends rehearsals for Dancing On Ice... ahead of '£1 million court showdown against Coleen Rooney'



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EXCLUSIVE Rochelle Humes carries baby son Blake in an animal print sling as she tucks into pizza with husband Marvin and their daughters on family outing



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► Rachel Zoe rocks cool animal print coat and denim bell-bottoms while getting coffee



► Kim Kardashian, Lady Gaga and a crying Lizzo lead the gushing celebrities celebrating on social media after Joe Biden is named the winner of the presidential election



► Sienna Miller cuts a chic figure in camel coat as she films dramatic scenes with Rupert Friend for new Netflix series Anatomy Of A Scandal

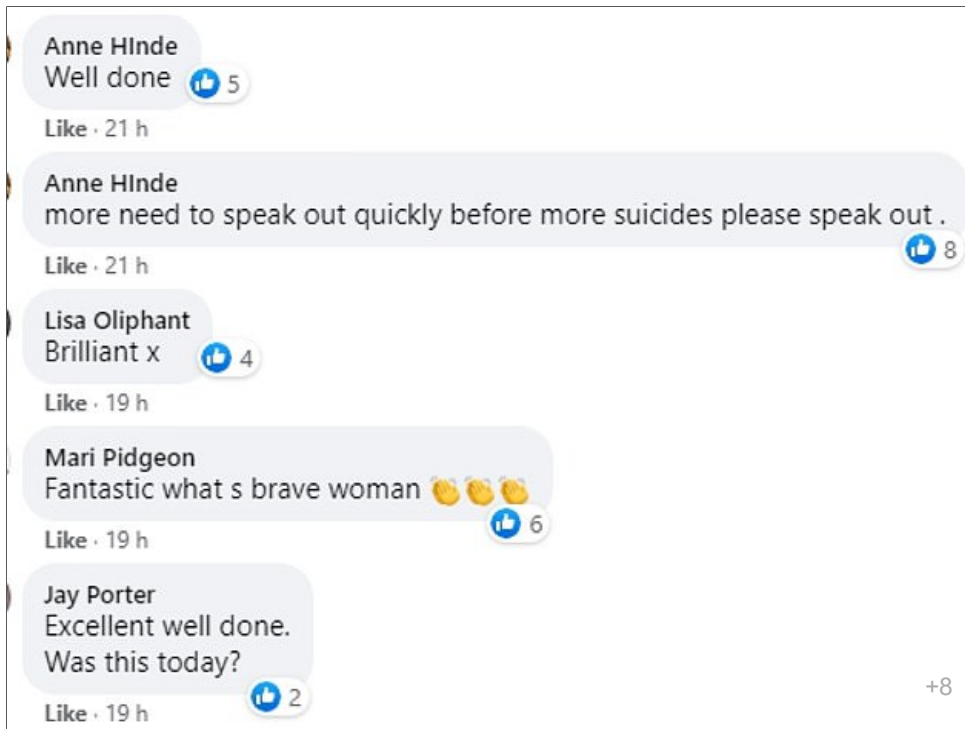


► Comedian Norm Crosby, The Master of Malaprop, dead at 93 after suffering heart failure



► Chris Moyles slams ex-station Radio 1 AGAIN after they axe several popular hosts... accusing bosses of dropping talent who get 'too old'





Many people took to the comments section to praise Shelley for speaking out (pictured)

She continues: 'Social distancing - there's nothing social about it. How many people have died because of the lockdown because they've not had their treatments.'

'I've got a friend whose mum committed suicide. When is this going to end?'

It is doing more damage closing the country and hospitals than keeping it open. Screw the social distancing, we need to fight back.'

And it wasn't long before the post was flooded with comments from people praising Shelley for speaking out.

'Brilliant brave lady. More NHS staff need to speak the truth, this is the most important issue you will ever face. Ask yourself why are they doing this?' wrote one, while a second penned: 'You go girl thank you for your honestypity more don't speak out.'

Hospitals are NO busier than normal, critics are being silenced and there IS more space in empty Nightingales, top experts claim (and they slam ministers for 'caving in' to dodgy propaganda from Number 10's 'gloomsters')

The NHS was never on track to be overwhelmed with coronavirus patients this winter but No10 was forced to hit the lockdown panic button because of its 'gloomster' scientific advisers, top experts fumed today.

Health Secretary Matt Hancock has warned the health service could collapse and seriously ill non-Covid patients could be turned away unless Covid-19's resurgence is nipped in the bud.

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▶ Strictly star Nicola Adams' girlfriend Ella Baig sends temperatures soaring as she showcases her underboob in VERY racy snap



▶ Jennifer Lopez cries tears of joy as she says she is 'so happy' about historic Joe Biden and Kamala Harris election win
Emotional



▶ Gordon Ramsay, 54, and daughter Matilda, 19, celebrate their joint birthday in lockdown with pair sent well-wishes from famous pal David Beckham



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▶ Celebrities splash out on their own 'status lakes' as wild swimming craze sweeps the nation - with the Beckhams, Prue Leith and Ed Sheeran helping drive up demand



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▶ Deborra-Lee Furness says she and husband Hugh Jackman adopted their two children in America because Australia has an 'anti-adoption culture'



But eminent doctors and scientists told MailOnline ministers had got their priorities twisted by sacrificing people's physical and mental wellbeing to save the NHS — which was designed to protect the people.

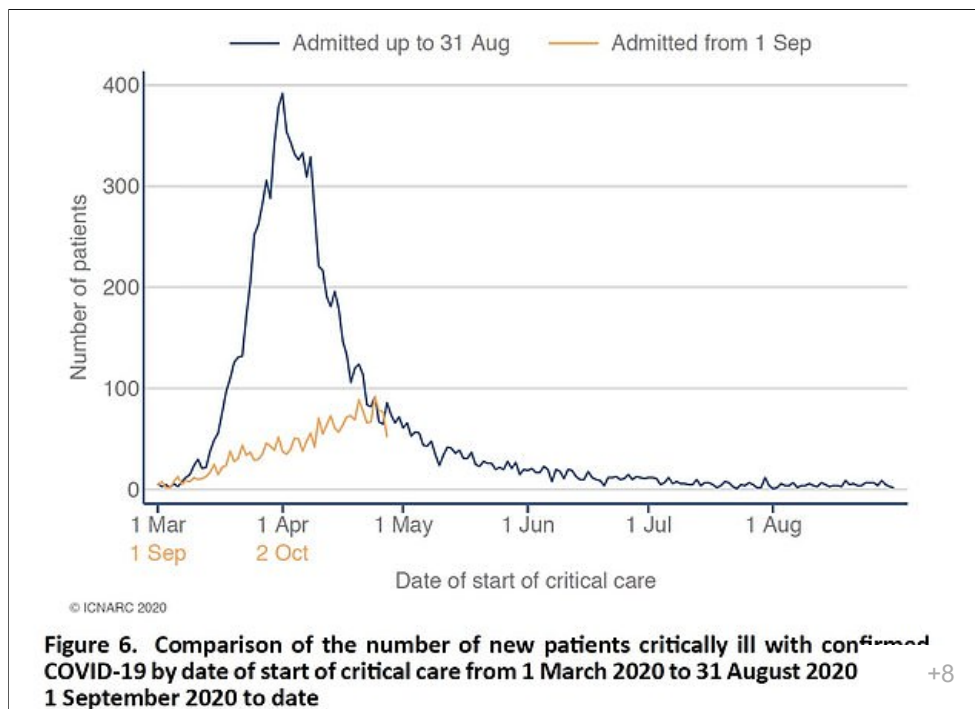
They claimed wards are no busier than they normally are at this time of year and that a large chunk of the people being treated for Covid-19 were either already in hospital when they caught the virus or would've been admitted for other reasons.

Oxford University's Professor Carl Heneghan, an expert in evidence-based medicine and practicing GP, said his analysis suggested a fifth of infected patients in the NHS acquired the virus in hospital, meaning they were already taking up a bed before contracting the disease.

NHS England has about 140,000 beds at its disposal - including capacity at the seven Nightingale hospital built during the first wave and thousands of beds commandeered from the private sector - and currently there are just shy of 10,500 Covid-19 patients in its hospitals. It means people with the disease are occupying fewer than 10 per cent of the health service's overall capacity.

Leaked documents suggest the NHS on a national scale is actually treating fewer patients than it was last year. Just 84 per cent of all hospital beds were occupied across the country on Tuesday, according to the document, which is lower than the 92 per cent recorded over the autumn of 2019.

It is true that a small handful of hospitals in hotspots in the North West are under strain after bearing the brunt of a surge in infections in recent months. But Karol Sikora, a consultant oncologist and professor of medicine at the University of Buckingham, said: 'This is supposed to be a national health service, if Leeds' ICU is full, we can send patients to Newcastle, for example. We do it all the time, for other conditions.'



Critical care admissions have been a far cry from the levels seen during the first peak in spring (shown in this graph by the Intensive Care National Audit and Research Unit), casting more doubt about the need for second lockdown

Both Professor Sikora and Professor Heneghan claimed the health service is put under pressure every winter from other seasonal illnesses - due to having the lowest

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► Kylie Minogue shares theory on why she was embraced by the gay community and became a Mardi Gras icon



► Francesca Allen flaunts her toned physique in skimpy white bikini as she poses for sun-kissed selfies during her recent getaway to Turkey



► Strongly worded letter from Prince Philip slamming New Zealand for treating Maoris like 'museum pieces and domestic pets' following 1954 royal visit is unearthed 66 years on



► Tom Cruise dons a black tux while Rebecca Ferguson wields cane during Mission Impossible 7 night shoot in curfew-hit Venice



► Vogue Williams rocks autumnal chic in a taupe jacket and skinny jeans as she heads to work at Global Radio... fresh from enjoying sun-drenched family trip to St Barts



► Gwyneth Paltrow radiates joy in driver's seat of her classic convertible Mercedes Benz as she and husband Brad Falchuk attend the Biden/Harris victory parade



► 'I won't take any risks for my daughter's sake': Denise Van Outen insists she won't be

bed capacity per population in Europe - yet it manages to come out the other side without the need for the UK to adopt crude interventions.

Another senior NHS intensive care doctor made similar comments to MailOnline but claimed they were silenced by health bosses, who threatened them with disciplinary action if they contradicted the hospital data used to justify the lockdown.

One told this website: 'It is my personal view a lockdown was not needed right now, the data they've used has been conveniently sampled. The official rationale from the Government will be to ensure people are safe and lives are saved but I think the real reason is they do not want to receive the same criticism they did the first time round.'

The first lockdown, while successful in protecting the NHS from being overwhelmed with Covid-19, has had a catastrophic effect on healthcare across the board. There were 27million fewer GP appointments than normal during the shut down, raising fears it led to the worsening of other conditions such as asthma and diabetes.

Tens of thousands less people than average went for cancer checks during that time and there were hundreds more deaths from heart attacks. Nearly a million people have lost their jobs since March and, when the furlough scheme ends next year, this is expected to rise again.

Professor Heneghan added: 'The perpetual opening up and closing down approach is incoherent and comes to a point where you create more harm than benefit, running long term damage to nation's health.'

'We had since May to prepare for this winter, it was clear then this would be a seasonal pathogen. We've got capacity in private hospitals and the Nightingales [which were built during the first wave but went unused].'

Referring to doctors reportedly being censored by NHS bosses for speaking out against the lockdown, he said: 'What I'm concerned about is lack of transparency that allows people to come forward in the NHS to provide much needed comment on what is going on, it's unacceptable. I am an NHS employee myself.'

'Functioning democracies require people to come forward and speak the truth, and we are being denied that. If we don't have that we don't have a functioning democracy.'

Every winter the health service is put under pressure because people tend to

ICU UNITS ARE NO BUSIER THAN USUAL, LEAKED DOCUMENTS SHOW

Leaked documents revealed intensive care units are no busier than normal for this time of year for most trusts, pouring extra cold water on claims the NHS is close to being overrun.

Eighteen per cent of critical care beds available across the health service nationally, which is normal for the autumn.

Data from the NHS Secondary Uses Services, seen by **The Telegraph**, claims to show that even in the worst hit region, the North West, seven per cent of critical care beds are still free.

The figures show there is still 15 per cent 'spare capacity' across the country - fairly normal for this time of year.

That's even without the thousands of Nightingale hospital beds which will provide extra capacity if needed.

Even in the North-West, the worst affected region in the 'second wave', only 92.9 per cent of critical care beds are currently occupied.

And in the peak of the Covid outbreak in April, critical care beds were never more than 80 per cent full, according to the data.

There were around 5,900 critical care - or ICU - beds in the NHS in January 2020, according to the King's Fund.

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▶ **Pregnant Elsa Hosk covers up her baby bump in a blue coat as she steps out with beau Tom Daly in NYC... before couple celebrate Joe Biden's election win**



Strictly Movie Week: Ranvir Singh earns the highest score of the SERIES with

get sicker from a slew of other illnesses and need care as the country moves deeper into the colder months.

Professor Sikora predicts 'at least half' of the 10,300 Covid-19 patients in hospital right now would be there anyway, for other conditions - though there is no data to stack up his claims.

He told MailOnline: 'A lot of patients have Covid but they're in hospital because they were ill before [getting the virus]. People with comorbidities always come at winter, ever since I've been a medical student.'

'Remember these people might have chest and heart and other underlying conditions, a positive PCR result doesn't mean they were hospitalised for Covid.'

'I've been a doctor for decades, this is no different to a normal year. We sometimes have had to close surgeries down to make room for more patients during winter pressures, way before Covid.'

The Government has honed in on the small handful of hospitals in hotspot areas that are under strain after bearing the brunt of a surge in infections in September and October and pointed to them as evidence the NHS could be overrun.

But Professor Sikora said the Government should've held its nerve and given the three-tiered lockdown system - which was only introduced on October 14 in Liverpool - time to have an effect. Boris Johnson admitted yesterday his localised approach was driving down cases and the R rate in hotspots.

He suggested the Government's scientific advisers were nervous about coming under the same scrutiny heaped their way during the first wave.

Professor Sikora added: 'Yes there was a steep rise in infections from September to October but the numbers have plateaued.'



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Oxford University's Professor Carl Heneghan (left) and renowned oncologist Professor Karol Sikora claimed wards are no busier than they normally are at this time of year and that a large chunk of the people being treated for Covid-19 were either already in hospital when they caught the virus or would've been admitted for other reasons

It is not clear how many Covid-19 patients are on critical care wards as this data is not available. But the number of patients on a ventilator - 952 on November 3 - gives a rough idea. However, not all patients on ventilators are classed as being in ICU.



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▶ Aubrey Plaza takes her dogs for a stroll... as she offers congratulations to Joe Biden and Kamala Harris on their historic presidential victory

▶ Pregnant Kate Ferdinand showcases her growing baby bump in black dress as she and her three stepchildren surprise Rio with 42nd birthday meal

▶ PICTURED: David Walliams, 49, heads out for dinner with model ex Keeley Hazell, 34, and his beloved pet dog Bert before lockdown... after 'moving her into his home for nine months'

Joy of the luvvies: Sophie Turner raises a glass to toast Joe



'Clearly what happened was government lost the plot and caved because it thought it was going to be overrun due to the propaganda presented by SAGE.

'Gloomsters always win because they can't go wrong with a lockdown. If you're like me and predict an optimistic outcome which then doesn't come true, you get fired.

'It's puzzling, if the prediction is we're going to be overwhelmed, then a lockdown is justified. But it can't be true, we're already in November and it's not even close.'

Professor Heneghan added: 'If you look in areas like Liverpool, the tiered restrictions caused a reduction in cases across all age groups. The people of Liverpool understood what the issues were and modified their behaviour.

'So I would be rewarding people of Liverpool with approach that says here's some light at end of tunnel, rather than a lockdown.'

SAGE - the Government's Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies - warned the Government the NHS was on track to be completely overwhelmed by the end of this month. The dire forecast was made using mathematical models that were a month out of date and high low confidence intervals.

The prediction has since been challenged by top scientists and doctors who say the modelling did not anticipate how effective the three-tier lockdown system would be.

Professor Heneghan said: 'The modelling was completely inaccurate. But once the PM is presented such a gloomy scenario, it becomes impossible to go with any other situation than lockdown.

'It's impossible to make decisions if you've got models that are a month out of date. We get words of 'assumptions, scenarios, projections' – but scientists can't predict more than six weeks ahead with any accuracy.'

The NHS was last night thrust back into its highest alert level, in anticipation of a wave of coronavirus hospital admissions in the coming weeks.

Sir Simon Stevens, NHS England's chief executive, claimed the move to level four was in response to the 'serious situation ahead'.

A move to level four means health bosses believe there is a real threat that an expected influx of Covid-19 patients could start to force the closure of other vital services across the nation.

Yet leaked documents on Wednesday revealed intensive care units were no busier than normal for this time of year for most trusts, pouring extra cold water on claims the NHS is close to being overrun.

Eighteen per cent of critical care beds available across the health service nationally, which is normal for the autumn. Data from the NHS Secondary Uses Services, seen by The Telegraph, claims to show that even in the worst hit region, the North West, seven per cent of critical care beds are still free.

The figures show there is still 15 per cent 'spare capacity' across the country – fairly normal for this time of year. That's even without the thousands of Nightingale hospital beds which will provide extra capacity if needed.

Even in the North-West, the worst affected region in the 'second wave', only 92.9 per cent of critical care beds are currently occupied. And in the peak of the Covid outbreak in April, critical care beds were never more than 80 per cent full, according to the data.

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Stepping out



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Amanda Holden, 49, looks incredible as she flashes her black lingerie in a sheer sparkling midi dress for

There were around 5,900 critical care - or ICU - beds in the NHS in January 2020, according to the King's Fund. It is not clear how many Covid patients are on critical care wards because this data is not available. But the number of patients on a ventilator - 952 on November 3 - gives a rough idea. However, not all patients on ventilators are classed as being in ICU.

There are just under 10,300 patients with Covid-19 on general and acute wards in NHS hospitals in England at the moment, official data shows. This means Covid-19 patients account for around 10 per cent of all available beds.

However, there are still more than 13,000 beds available on general wards, considering there are almost 114,000 NHS beds in England overall. Professor Sikora estimates there are about 140,000 beds overall once the Nightingale hospitals and extra capacity in the private sector which the NHS has bought in case it does get pushed to the brink.

MailOnline revealed at the height of the first wave in April that Covid-19 patients never made up more than 30 per cent of the total beds occupied. Just under 19,000 patients out of 70,000 in hospitals at that time had Covid-19.

Commenting on the data, Professor Heneghan told MailOnline 'This is completely in line with what is normally available at this time of year. What I don't understand is that I seem to be looking at a different data-set to what the Government is presenting.

'Everything is looking at normal levels and free bed capacity is still significant, even in high dependency units and intensive care, even though we have a very small number across the board. We are starting to see a drop in people in hospitals.

'Tier Three restrictions are working phenomenally well and, rather than locking down, I would be using this moment to increase capacity.'

But Chris Hopson, chief executive of NHS Providers, which represents hospitals, said there is 'no point' using national bed occupancy rates to argue that lockdown isn't needed.

He tweeted : 'Many hospital CEOs in the north tell us they are under extreme pressure. Many of them say their Covid-19 patient numbers are above what they saw in the peak of the first phase.

'The argument from NHS CEOs in rest of country is many are already seeing high worrying levels of general bed occupancy. And if the Covid pattern in the north is repeated elsewhere in the country a month later, it'll coincide with winter when NHS is at its most stretched.

'This means trusts won't be able to give the treatment and quality of care they would want, to all who need it. None of this is reflected in, or affected by, current national ICU bed occupancy rates. They are irrelevant as far as this risk is concerned.'

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