

From The Times  
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## **NHS rationing**

Sir, The insistence of Andy Burnham, the Health Minister, that rationing in the NHS cannot be countenanced ([report, 9 May](#)) suggests that he is deplorably ignorant concerning his area of responsibility.

If he wants to know about rationing in the NHS, let him ask any primary care trust for a list of the items of medical care they have decided not to commission from providers in order to stay within budget. No cash-limited healthcare system can pretend to afford everything that is available for all its clients, and the unwillingness of politicians of any party to acknowledge this self-evident fact succeeds only in making them look foolish.

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