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Sir, Richard Bosdet (letter, June 24) makes the common assumption that if only doctors would work at the weekend, like the “nurses, porters, security, etc”, a full seven-day service could be provided, and capital assets could be used more efficiently.

Doctors do work at the weekend, but in reduced numbers, and the same is true of the other staff groups he mentions, in order to maintain an emergency service. In my experience the only staff group largely absent at the weekends was management.

To provide a full service 24/7 requires more staff. Doing it with the current staff base would lead to a reduction in the numbers available during the week. Far from sweating the assets, this would lead to under-utilisation on seven days rather than two, thereby reducing efficiency.

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