

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
	£(m)	£(m)	£(m)	£(m)	£(m)	£(m)	£(m)	£(m)	£(m)	£(m)
Total	3.0	9.3	18.2	23.9	25.0	41.8	16.9	18.7	19.4	17.6

Source: NHS National Services Scotland Central Legal Office

Richard Simpson (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what research it has undertaken on the cost effectiveness of prescriptions issued in hospital for patients on discharge.

(S4W-26194)

Shona Robison: The Scottish Government has not undertaken specific research on the cost-effectiveness of prescriptions issued in hospital for patients on discharge.

All NHS boards in Scotland use local joint formularies which recommend use of the same medicines for both primary and secondary care. The choice for inclusion of a medicine in these local formularies is based on its safety, clinical effectiveness and cost-effectiveness. Prescribing compliance with NHS board local joint formularies is encouraged for all clinicians, whether in primary or secondary care. The principle of a shared list of recommended medicines helps to ensure that patients receive continuation of essential treatment at all interfaces of care, including hospital admission and discharge.

Richard Simpson (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what percentage of medicines prescribed by hospital doctors for use after discharge is generic.

(S4W-26195)

Shona Robison: The information requested is not available centrally.

The Scottish Government supports the appropriate use of approved name (generic) prescribing, an approach which is promoted by NHS Board Area Drug and Therapeutics Committees. NHS board local joint formularies are built on this principle, which applies to both primary and secondary care medicines. The use of approved name prescribing helps ensure the supply of essential medicines for patients and is central to deriving value for money for the NHS on the cost of medicines.

Jim Hume (South Scotland) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government what its plans are for allocating the £40 million announced in November 2014 for the improvement and support of GP and primary care services.

(S4W-26232)

Shona Robison: Over the next three years, £50 million will be invested to address immediate workload and recruitment issues, as well as putting in place long-term, sustainable change within primary care. In addition, £10 million of the already announced mental health fund will be invested in primary care mental health services to encourage innovative ways of encouraging better identification and management of patients with mental health needs in the community.

This investment is our first step in ensuring our GP services are on a firm footing for the future. We will work with the British Medical Association Scotland and the Royal College of General Practitioners in Scotland and with professionals across the health service, as well as patients and the public, to redesign our primary care services. This £60 million fund has been expanded from the £40 million previously announced, expanding this to a three-year fund, rather than a one-off investment.

We will work constructively with the GP workforce to ensure services are fit for the future and meet the needs of the people of Scotland.

Tavish Scott (Shetland Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-25934 by Shona Robison on 11 June 2015, in light of road equivalent tariff fares being based on a higher mileage rate, including other costs associated with running a car, for what reason people travelling to hospital by car are reimbursed for petrol costs only.

(S4W-26290)

Shona Robison: The mileage rate paid under the Highlands and Islands patient travel scheme is intended to contribute towards the cost of fuel, but does not cover other running costs, for example insurance or depreciation. The intention is to ensure equality of treatment between those using public transport and those using their own car.

Ken Macintosh (Eastwood) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how it will keep MSPs informed of its progress in tackling A&E waiting times at the South Glasgow University Hospital during the Parliament's summer recess.

(S4W-26304)

Shona Robison: There is no planned formal reporting during Parliaments summer recess however, emergency department weekly activity and waiting times in Scotland, which will include performance at the new South Glasgow University Hospital, will continue to be published on Information Services Division's NHS Performs website:<http://www.isdscotland.scot.nhs.uk/Products-and-Services/NHS-Performs/>

Lewis Macdonald (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-26113 by Shona Robison on 25 June 2015, whether the cabinet secretary invited elected representatives to attend this meeting and, if so, on what basis they were invited.

(S4W-26326)

Shona Robison: This meeting was not organised by the Cabinet Secretary for Health, Wellbeing and Sport.

Learning and Justice

Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to encourage more black and minority ethnic people to become teachers.

(S4W-26114)

Angela Constance: The Scottish Government is committed to equality. We want to see a diverse education workforce which broadly reflects Scottish society. I am committed to establishing a new strategic board for teacher education and quality which will include universities, local authorities and professional associations. These partners have an essential role to play in addressing the diversity of the teaching workforce. I will task this board to investigate the barriers to wider representation and to come forward with suggestions to support diversity in order to ensure that the teaching workforce within schools reflects the communities that they serve.

Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to increase the number of black and minority ethnic teachers in schools.

(S4W-26115)

Angela Constance: The Scottish Government is committed to equality. We want to see a diverse education workforce which broadly reflects Scottish society. I am committed to establishing a new strategic board for teacher education and quality which will include universities, local authorities and professional associations. These partners have an essential role to play in addressing the diversity of the teaching workforce. I will task this board to investigate the barriers to wider representation and to come forward with suggestions to support diversity in order to ensure that the teaching workforce within schools reflects the communities that they serve.

Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to address the challenges faced by black and minority ethnic teachers seeking progression into senior roles.

(S4W-26116)

Angela Constance: The Scottish Government is committed to equality. We want to see a diverse education workforce which includes more black and minority ethnic teachers in senior roles. The establishment of the Scottish College for Educational Leadership alongside a new qualification for headship will help create a clear promotion pathway guiding all teachers to the most senior posts in schools. I am committed to establishing a new strategic board for teacher education and quality which will include universities, local authorities and professional associations. These partners have an essential role to play in addressing the diversity of the teaching workforce. I will task this board to investigate the barriers to wider representation and to come forward with suggestions to support diversity in order to ensure that the teaching workforce within schools reflects the communities that they serve.

Liam McArthur (Orkney Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government on what date the additional £125 bursary payment for students with household incomes of between £0 and £23,999 will be paid and for what reason this will be a one-off payment.

(S4W-26284)

Angela Constance: The additional £125 bursary payment is not a one off award. From academic year 2016-17, the additional bursary payment of £125 will be embedded into the total available bursary and spread across eligible students' monthly instalments.

For academic year 2015-16 the Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS) will be treating the additional £125 separate to the normal monthly payment process. The £125 will be issued to eligible students as a one-off payment. SAAS are working on the detail of the exact timings of the payment date.

Liam McArthur (Orkney Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government whether the additional bursary payment of £125 in 2015-16 for students with household incomes of between £0 and £23,999 will continue as a standard payment in future.

(S4W-26285)

Angela Constance: Yes. From academic year 2016-17 the additional bursary payment of £125 will be embedded into the total available bursary and spread across eligible students' monthly instalments.

Liam McArthur (Orkney Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government whether it will pay bursaries of £1,875 or more for some students in 2016-17.

(S4W-26286)

Angela Constance: Yes. From academic year 2016-17 eligible 'Young Students' living in a household with an income below £19,000 will be entitled to the maximum bursary of £1,875.

Strategy and External Affairs

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what consultations it has undertaken since 2011; how many responses it received for each consultation, and when it published those responses.

Holding answer issued: 18 June 2015

(S4W-25961)

Joe FitzPatrick: All consultations and published responses can be found on the Scottish Government website via the following link: <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/>.