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Convener, Health, Social Care and Sport Committee
The Scottish Parliament
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25 September 2025

Dear Clare,

£4.5 million funding for Long COVID, ME/CFS and other similar conditions

I am writing to you with an update on the £4.5 million of funding for new specialist support for Long COVID, Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME)/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS) and other similar conditions first announced in the 2025-2026 Scottish Budget. The information I am sharing will be announced in the Parliament via a Government-Initiated Question on Thursday 25 September.

Further to Parliament's approval of the 2025-26 Scottish Budget on 25 February 2025, the Scottish Government has been engaging closely with NHS boards to support the allocation of this new funding.

Boards told us that having funding only for a single financial year would be a barrier to their ability to develop new support. Therefore, following further assessment in line with Scottish Government spending controls, we wrote to NHS Board Chief Executives on 18 September to confirm that this funding will now be made available on a recurring basis. This commitment provides the longer term assurance necessary to enable boards to plan on a sustainable basis, and support the recruitment and retention of the skilled members of staff required for the delivery of services.

NHS Boards' shares of the available 2025/26 funding will be allocated in full on an earmarked recurring basis. From the financial year 2026-27 onwards NHS Boards will receive the £4.5 million resource annually.

In 2025-26 the £4.5 million funding is being provided in addition to remaining resource of approximately £3 million from the £10 million long COVID Support Fund (established 2022). The £10 million fund will be fully disbursed by the end of the 2025-26 financial year.

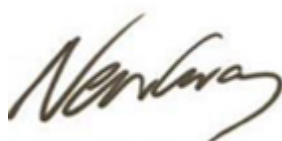
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A breakdown of the funding is as follows:

NHS Ayrshire and Arran	£327,482
NHS Borders	£99,208
NHS Dumfries and Galloway	£133,076
NHS Fife	£307,495
NHS Forth Valley	£246,390
NHS Grampian	£437,038
NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	£957,544
NHS Highland	£300,399
NHS Lanarkshire	£561,378
NHS Lothian	£676,576
NHS Orkney	£21,985
NHS Shetland	£21,466
NHS Tayside	£346,825
NHS Western Isles	£29,138
Total	£4,466,000

We will also provide funding of £33,366 to Action for ME to support their *Learn about ME* online CPD module for health & social care professionals.

I am aware that, separately, the Committee wrote to the Minister for Public Health and Women's Health on 11 September with a list of questions about Long COVID policy, some of which relate to the £4.5 million funding. You will receive a separate response in due course answering these questions, but in the interim I wanted to write to you in your capacity as convener specifically in advance of the update to the Parliament on 25 September.



NEIL GRAY

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