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Clare Haughey MSP  
Convener  
Health, Social Care and Sport Committee  
Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

2 May 2025

Dear Clare

I am writing to share a final update on the progress and impact of the additional £30 million funding to manage NHS Waiting Times in 2024/25.

## Background

As noted in my letter of 20 February, in April 2024, the then First Minister, Humza Yousaf announced an initial £30 million of targeted investment to help reduce waiting lists. The funding is to enable us to maximise capacity, build greater resilience in the system and deliver reductions in the number of patients who have waited too long for treatment.

The investment was expected to deliver 64,000 additional procedures and appointments across diagnostics, inpatient/daycase and new outpatient appointments and procedures. Funding was targeted in specialties including Diagnostics, Ophthalmology, Orthopaedics, Urology and Cancer.

## Progress

We continued to closely monitor the progress and impact of the additional investment for the remainder of 2024/25. To the end of March, NHS Boards have reported that they collectively have delivered 105,500 appointments and procedures funded through the additional investment, exceeding the initial plan of 64,000:

- over 15,800 new outpatient appointments;
- almost 10,700 surgeries;
- and almost 79,000 diagnostic procedures.

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## Impact

Across Scotland, the latest published data in the PHS Stage of Treatment Statistics show that, between October 2024 and December 2024, compared to the same period in 2023, there has been an 2.0% increase in activity for inpatient/daycase procedures and 1.6% increase for new outpatients appointments. Additionally, in relation to diagnostics, at the end of December 2024, the diagnostic waiting list had reduced by over 18,000 compared to end of April 2024. Since December 2022 the diagnostic waiting list has reduced by over 14,870. While changes to overall activity and waiting times cannot be solely attributed to the £30 million additional investment, we are confident that it has supported increased throughput.

At Board level, we have seen reductions in waiting times across a number of specialities where funding has been targeted, as set out in the table in **Annex A**.

Following the budget announcement in December 2024 to invest a further £100 million to reduce waiting times, we will continue to build on progress to ensure that no one is waiting over 52 weeks by March 2026.

Yours sincerely



**NEIL GRAY**

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## Annex A

NHS Board	Activity Type	Speciality	% Change in list size between March 2024 to December 2024
NHS Ayrshire & Arran	Diagnostic	Endoscopy	-71%
NHS Fife	Diagnostic	Imaging	-52%
NHS Ayrshire & Arran	Diagnostic	Imaging	-43%
NHS Forth Valley	Diagnostic	Imaging	-39%
NHS Grampian	Diagnostic	Imaging	-35%
NHS Tayside	Diagnostic	Imaging	-29%
NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	Diagnostic	Endoscopy	-28%
NHS Lothian	TTG	Ophthalmology	-28%
NHS Ayrshire & Arran	TTG	Ophthalmology	-27%
NHS Lanarkshire	NOP	Urology	-23%
NHS Grampian	Diagnostic	Endoscopy	-20%
NHS Lanarkshire	TTG	Ophthalmology	-19%
NHS Lanarkshire	Diagnostic	Imaging	-18%
NHS Highland	TTG	Ophthalmology	-18%
NHS Lothian	TTG	Urology	-16%
NHS Lanarkshire	Diagnostic	Endoscopy	-13%
NHS Fife	TTG	Orthopaedics	-13%
NHS Lothian	TTG	Orthopaedics	-12%
NHS Highland	NOP	Ophthalmology	-11%
NHS Fife	NOP	Orthopaedics	-10%
NHS Highland	NOP	Orthopaedics	-10%

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