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Clare Haughey MSP
Convener
Health, Social Care and Sport Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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20 February 2025

Dear Convener

I am writing to share with you an update on the progress and impact of the additional £30 million funding to manage NHS Waiting Times in 2024-25.

Background

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 Ophthalmology, Orthopaedics, Urology, Diagnostics and Cancer.

Progress to Date

We have been closely monitoring progress and impact of the additional investment since April 2024. To the end of January, NHS Boards have reported that they collectively have delivered 75,500, exceeding the initial plan of 64,000.

Activity funded through the additional funding is broken is broken down as follows:

- over 9,800 of 12,000 new outpatient appointments;
- almost 9,200 of 12,000 surgeries delivered;
- and almost 56,500 diagnostic procedures delivered, exceeding the original plan to deliver 40,000 by 41%.

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Impact

Across Scotland, the latest published data in the PHS Stage of Treatment Statistics shows that, between April 2024 and September 2024, compared to the same period in 2023, there has been an 8.3% increase in activity for inpatient/day case procedures and 2.5% increase for new outpatients appointments. While the activity through the additional investment cannot be directly attributed to the increased activity, we are confident that has supported increased throughput.

The targeted funding has also helped reduce the total national diagnostics waiting list size. Between April 2024 and September 2024 imaging list size reduced by 7.5% and scopes by 7.3%.

At Board level, we have seen significant percentage 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 £200 million to reduce waiting and support reductions in delayed discharge, we will continue to build on progress to ensure that no one is waiting over 52 weeks by March 2026.

I will keep the Committee updated on progress in 2025-26.

Yours sincerely



NEIL GRAY

Board / Speciality Ongoing Waits (April 2024 – September 2024)

NHS Board	Speciality		% change between ongoing waits April to end Sept 2024
Ayrshire & Arran	Imaging	Diagnostics	-35.2%
Fife	Imaging	Diagnostics	-44.3%
Forth Valley	Imaging	Diagnostics	-22.9%
GJNH	Imaging	Diagnostics	-16.7%
Grampian	Imaging	Diagnostics	-34.3%
Highland	Imaging	Diagnostics	-6.0%
Lanarkshire	Imaging	Diagnostics	-7.3%
Tayside	Imaging	Diagnostics	-11.4%
Borders	Scopes	Diagnostics	-19.0%
GG&C	Scopes	Diagnostics	-26.7%
Grampian	Scopes	Diagnostics	-9.0%
Highland	Scopes	Diagnostics	-6.5%
Lanarkshire	Scopes	Diagnostics	-16.1%
Tayside	Scopes	Diagnostics	-8.6%
Lanarkshire	Ophthalmology	Inpatient / Daycase	-14.9%
Shetland	Ophthalmology	Inpatient / Daycase	-35.5%
Fife	Orthopaedics	Inpatient / Daycase	-5.2%
GG&C	Orthopaedics	Inpatient / Daycase	-0.4%
Highland	Orthopaedics	Inpatient / Daycase	-6.2%

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Lanarkshire	Orthopaedics	Inpatient / Daycase	-9.3%
Lothian	Orthopaedics	Inpatient / Daycase	-7.6%
Forth Valley	Urology	Inpatient / Daycase	-22.4%
Lothian	Urology	Inpatient / Daycase	-12.7%
Highland	ENT	Inpatient / Daycase	-19.0%
Lothian	General Surgery	Inpatient / Daycase	-9.8%
Highland	Gynaecology	New Outpatient	-9.6%
Highland	Orthopaedics	New Outpatients	-8.5%

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