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

23 July 2025

Dear Clare,

Reducing long waits in the NHS is one of the biggest priorities of the Scottish Government. The record investment in the Budget is allowing us to target specific areas that are experiencing long waits, reducing backlogs and getting people the treatment they need as quickly as possible. I am pleased to confirm that through our £106 million additional investment this year, NHS Boards plan to deliver more than 300,000 appointments and procedures in 2025-26.

The additional appointments and procedures are expected to break down as follows:

- 195,000 imaging scans;
- 31,000 inpatient or day-case procedures; and
- 88,000 new outpatient appointments

A proportion of funding will also support cancer activity and provide critical supporting services which help our NHS deliver activity including pathology, diagnostic reporting and pre-assessment.

In addition, the Government has also now committed a further £4 million to deliver extra dermatology activity, bringing total additional funding for this year to over £110 million. This will support a planned:

- 4,100 new outpatient appointments; and
- 1,500 'see and treat'

This funding will also see photo-triage of up to 8,300 digital images, allowing clinicians to triage, diagnose and assess some skin conditions, leading to a better and quicker service for patients.

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This means 213,000 more appointments will be delivered this year than in 2024/25, exceeding our Programme for Government target of delivering 150,000 extra appointments by more than 60,000.

This investment is part of the £200 million announced as part of the Programme for Government to build capacity, tackle delayed discharge and improve patient flow through hospitals.

NHS Boards will receive their allocated funding on delivery of activity. The Scottish Government may move funding between Boards and specialities throughout the year, subject to progress.

Yours sincerely,



NEIL GRAY

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