

## Easy read summary

# The National Health Service (NHS) in Scotland in 2025



## The NHS in Scotland



The NHS has more money and more staff.

But health boards in Scotland are struggling to only spend the money they have.



7 health boards needed to borrow money from the Scottish Government in 2024 to 2025.



There are worries that NHS Ayrshire and Arran and NHS Grampian will not have enough money to provide good services in the future.



NHS boards have:

- made more savings
- saved money by not spending as much on nurses from **agencies** – this means nurses who do not work for the NHS.



Capital spending is money that is spent on buildings and **maintenance**.

**Maintenance** means keeping a building:

- safe
- in good working order
- looking good.



There was not as much money spent on this from 2024 to 2025.

This means that there are a lot of buildings that still need maintenance work to happen.



Capital budgets are expected to be more from 2025 to 2026.



Work will be done on maintenance that is **high risk** – this means it needs to be done soon to keep people safe.



More money will be spent on health in the future.



This might mean there will not be as much money to spend on other important public services like schools and councils.



Most hospitals are making people wait too long to be seen.



The target for Accident and Emergency is that 95 per cent of people should be seen, treated, transferred for treatment or be able to leave before 4 hours have passed.

Across NHS Scotland the figure was only 71 per cent in June 2025.

**Hospital activity levels** mean the number of:



- **outpatient** appointments – where a patient comes to a hospital or clinic for treatment and does not have to stay overnight



- **inpatient** or **day case** admissions.

**Inpatient** means when a patient has to stay overnight in hospital.



A **day case** is when a person needs treatment or surgery and comes into hospital and leaves on the same day.



Hospital activity levels are going up.

But they are still below the levels they were before the coronavirus pandemic.



Waiting lists are starting to get shorter.

We do not know if this will continue into the future.



Ministers have made new plans to make NHS services better including:

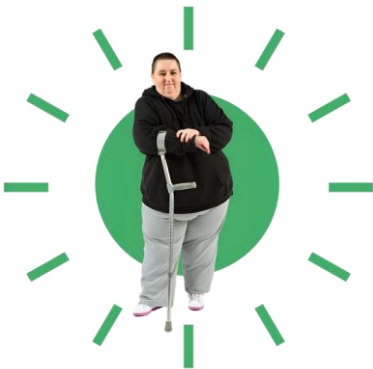


- making it easier for people to get care in their local area

- ways to stop people from getting diseases



- having good ways to help people deal with their long-term health conditions



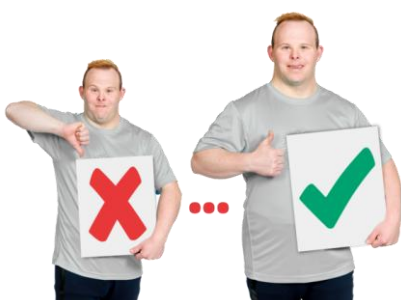
- making health and social care services happen in a way that puts people at the centre of decisions



- delivering services in **digital** ways – this means using equipment that uses the internet, like computers or smart phones.



A lot of the things the Government wants to do still have to happen.



This time the government and health leaders need to make sure that change happens.



This will help to make the people of Scotland have better health in the future.