



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
The Government's Expenditure Plans
1999-2000

DEPARTMENTAL REPORT

THE HEALTH AND PERSONAL
SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAMMES

This is part of a series of departmental reports (Cm 4202 to 4221) accompanied by the document *Public Expenditure: Statistical Analyses, 1999-2000* (Cm 4201), which present the Government's expenditure plans for 1999-2000 to 2001-2002. The complete series is also available as a set at a discounted price.



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Department of Health

DEPARTMENTAL REPORT

Presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for Health
and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury

by Command of Her Majesty

March 1999

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The purpose of this report is to present to Parliament and the public a clear and informative account of the expenditure and activities of the Department of Health.

The report is also available on the internet at <http://www.doh.gov.uk.deprep99.htm>

The Department of Health also has a Public Enquiry Office which deals with general enquiries, 0171 210 4850.

Foreword by the Secretary of State

It gives me great pleasure to present the ninth annual report of the Department of Health.

During the period covered by this report, our country will enter the 21st Century. This report sets out how we intend to prepare the National Health Service and social services to deliver a standard of service fit for that 21st Century. And it explains what we are doing to tackle and reduce the gross inequalities in health that have marred the century we are leaving.

As I write this foreword, the National Health Service is preparing to embark on a new chapter in its history – the new NHS, modern and dependable. During the Government's first year in office, we published our plans for renewing and modernising the NHS, putting local doctors and nurses in the driving seat in shaping the health care that local people need. Those plans are now being put into practice – for example, through the introduction of Primary Care Groups and Primary Care Trusts.

This will mean better local plans linking hospitals, GPs and community nurses, working together and able to make best use of their knowledge on the ground.

For the first time in the history of the NHS, the people who see their patients week in, week out, will be making the decisions as to how their patients get the best possible treatment from the Health Service.

That's just one part of the massive process of change that will take place in the NHS over this year.

Over this year:

- our record £21 billion, 3-year investment in the NHS will start to come on stream;
- our new, and highly popular innovation, *NHS Direct*, will provide a 24-hour, nurse-led telephone helpline to 40 per cent of the country by April 1999, 60 per cent of the country by December 1999 – and to the whole country by 2000;
- every Accident and Emergency Department that needs it will be refurbished and modernised;
- on-line appointment booking, medical advice, test results, prescriptions, patient records and GP services will begin to be rolled out, making the NHS the most technologically advanced healthcare system in the world;
- NHS waiting lists will be shorter than the figure we inherited – and new targets on patient waits for cancer treatment will be delivered;
- the biggest hospital building programme in the history of the NHS will continue, delivering more 21st Century buildings for patients and staff alike;
- the highest number of new nurse trainees for 6 years will start training, part of a package of measures to address the serious nurse shortages that have built up over the past 6 years;



- nurses, midwives and PAMS staff will receive their biggest pay rise for 10 years, and for the first time in 5 years the award will be paid nationally, in full, and with no staging;
- the number of bodies commissioning local healthcare will be slashed from around 4,000 to around 500 – massively reducing the waste and bureaucracy of fundholding and making more money available for patient care;
- two new bodies – the National Institute for Clinical Excellence and the Commission for Health Improvement – will be established to identify, spread and enforce the highest possible standards of quality care throughout the country;
- the work of these bodies will be backed by the introduction of tough new legal duties, for quality and partnership throughout the Health Service;
- 13 million people across the country will benefit from living in 1 of 26 places designated Health Action Zones – part of the Government's drive to target areas with particularly high levels of ill health – including cancer and heart disease – and so improve the health of the worst off at a faster rate than the general population.

That work will go ahead this year. But it builds on our achievements this year – not just in the NHS, but across the range of health and social care and public health. Amongst other things, during this year, we have:

- achieved the largest sustained fall in waiting lists in the history of the Health Service;
- ended 18 months waits for hospital treatment. Something the previous Government promised, but never delivered;
- restored free eye tests for pensioners;
- announced funding for a second wave of Personal Dental Services pilots to offer patients faster, easier access to NHS dental care and improved services;
- launched the Quality Protects initiative to promote and safeguard the welfare of socially excluded children, and particularly of children looked after by Local Authorities and to improve the extent and quantity of co-operative work between different public agencies;
- announced a national strategy and an extra £700 million to deliver safe and modern mental health services;
- published our proposals for modernising social services, paving the way for radical improvements in the quality, reliability and cost-effectiveness of social services and proposing regulatory powers and duties to ensure that adults and children in regulated services are protected from harm and from poor care standards;
- launched the most ambitious programme to tackle smoking ever set out by any European Government – including a ban on tobacco advertising;
- launched the Healthy Schools Initiative to ensure that schools use all the resources at their disposal to improve the health and well-being of children and staff, and to tackle the inequalities in health which are marked in early childhood, such as accidents and asthma, which affect children's ability to learn;
- set in train radical overhaul and improvements in the management and performance of the National Blood Authority;

- identified the 60 disadvantaged areas of the country to be trailblazer districts in developing programmes which can meet the key values and aims of the £450 million Sure Start strategy to help children from deprived backgrounds get the best possible start in life;
- launched our £5 million nurse recruitment campaign, including the nurse recruitment hotline which received 50,000 calls in less than 8 weeks;
- set national standards for the quality of breast and cervical cancer screening services;
- introduced the Health Bill into Parliament, putting into law the dismantling of the internal market;
- introduced legislation to set up the Road Traffic Accident Scheme which will allow NHS trusts to recoup millions of pounds from the costs of treating victims of road traffic accidents; and,
- published radical plans to modernise the way the NHS rewards its staff, including 3 national pay spines to replace the many current pay scales and responsibility related pay where progression up pay spines reflects the responsibilities staff take on and the competencies they acquire.



Rt Hon Frank Dobson MP
Secretary of State for Health

MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Secretary of State:

The Right Honourable Frank Dobson MP

Has overall responsibility for the work of the Department and has individual responsibility for sponsorship including health exports.



Minister of State for Health:

John Denham MP

Responsibility for: Strategy and planning; NHS structure/organisation; Commissioning; NHS White Paper Implementation; Clinical Quality (including National Institute of Clinical Effectiveness and Commission for Health Improvement); NHS Charter; Primary care; General medical services; General dental services; General ophthalmic services; Pharmaceutical services (including prescribing and drugs bill); Human resources in the NHS; NHS pay and conditions; Medical training and education; Medical workforce planning; Equal opportunities; NHS finance; CSR preparation and follow-up; NHS resource allocation; NHS central budgets; Performance monitoring; Management costs and NHS efficiency; Private Finance Initiative and NHS Capital; Market testing; London; Statistics; NHS Estates; Health Action Zones; Communications; Policy on NHS appointments; Regional NHS casework on London and South West.

Minister of State for Public Health:

Ms Tessa Jowell MP

Responsibility for: Our Healthier Nation (including implementation in the NHS); Ethnic health; Health education and promotion; Health Education Authority; Health inequalities; Substance misuse (including tobacco control, alcohol policy and drugs); Communicable diseases (including HIV/AIDS); Immunisation; Abortion; Family planning; Ethical issues and confidentiality; Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act and related issues; Genetics and gene therapy; Food hygiene and safety; Spongiform encephalopathies; Nutrition; Public health bodies; Health Action Zones; Environment and health; Air quality; Radiation; European Union Health Council; World Health Organization; Council of Europe; Other international business; Public Health in the NHS; Women's issues; Sure Start; Health visiting and school nursing; Regional NHS casework for Trent and North West.



Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Lords): Lady Hayman

Responsibility for: Health services development; Transplants; Cancer; Emergency services; Maternity and child health; Blood; Procurement; Independent health care sector; NHS Supplies Authority; Waiting times; Complaints; Clinical negligence; Community Health Councils; Nursing strategy (including recruitment and retention); Professions allied to medicine; Medicines (including licensing); Medical devices (including licensing); Pharmaceutical industry (including Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme); Department of Health management including agencies; Ministerial correspondence; Civil Defence; Deregulation; Regional NHS casework for Eastern and South Eastern.



Parliamentary Under Secretary of State: John Hutton MP

Responsibility for Personal Social Services resources: Services to elderly people (including NHS continuing care); Services for carers; General social services; NHS/Personal Social Services interface; Services for people with mental illness; Special hospitals; Homeless mentally ill; Disabilities (including people with sensory and learning disabilities); Children's services; Adoption and fostering; Child protection; Department of Health aspects of juvenile offenders; Children Act; Children's residential care; Children's day care; Youth Treatment Service; Child and adolescent mental health services; Voluntary sector (including Section 64 grant scheme); Family issues; Regional NHS casework for Northern & Yorkshire and West Midlands; Regional Social Services Inspectorate casework.