

Directorate for Health and Social Care Finance, Digital and Governance

Richard McCallum, Director

T: 0131-244 3464

E: richard.mccallum@gov.scot

Chief Executives, NHS Scotland

Copy to: NHS Chairs  
NHS Directors of Finance  
Integration Authority Chief Officers  
Integration Authority Chief Finance Officers

***Issued via email***

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Dear Chief Executives

**Scottish Government Budget 2024-25**

Following the announcement of the Scottish Government's Budget for 2024-25 by the Deputy First Minister in Parliament today, I am writing to provide details of the indicative funding settlement for Health Boards. A breakdown of the total is provided in **Annex A** to this letter.

The Deputy First Minister noted in her response to the UK Government's Autumn Statement that it delivered a worst-case scenario for Scotland's finances.

## **Covid-19 Funding**

Whilst the scale of Covid-19 costs has reduced significantly in 2023-24, we recognise there are specific legacy costs that will require additional funding support in the new financial year. This includes funding for:

- Vaccinations staffing and delivery.
- Test & Protect activities including Regional Testing facilities.
- Additional PPE requirements; and
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core areas outlined above, we will not be providing any funding, including in relation to our intention to increase formula capital so that it doubles over the Capital Spending Review period (2021-22 to 2025-26).

In respect of 2023-24, we are asking all Boards to review their capital expenditure for the remainder of the year and to defer any areas where spend is discretionary.

**b. New Developments and Capital Planning**

We are aware that most Boards are developing infrastructure plans and individual projects which will require Scottish Government funding to progress. Given the challenging settlement we are managing, we will not be funding development costs for any new projects, as we do not anticipate starting construction of any new project over the next two years at least. We understand the local challenges this will present in some instances, so the Health Capital Finance team will arrange a discussion with all affected Boards in the New Year to confirm arrangements. However, in the meantime, NHS Boards should immediately stop any project development spend, otherwise these costs may need to be funded from local formula capital budgets which should instead be directed towards maintenance of the existing estate and essential equipment and digital replacement.

Now that we have clarity on the capital funding position, a Directors' Letter on Whole System Planning that focusses on maintaining your current estate, will be on ~~NSD~~ ~~g0 G(N)-4(80 037(a)11(i)-4(nt)4(a)11(i)BDC q0.000008873~~



