

INFORMATION
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Investment in General Practice, Northern Ireland 2015-16 to 2019-20



Department of
Health

An Roinn Sláinte

Máinnystrie O Poustie

www.health-ni.gov.uk

Investment in General Practice, Northern Ireland 2015-16 to 2019/20

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Introduction:

This report details the investment in general practice and the reimbursement for drugs dispensed in general practices in Northern Ireland from 2015-16 to 2019-20. The report draws on information from the financial reporting system of the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) and other published data on reimbursement and remuneration for dispensing activity.

The data also contain some financial flows which do not reach GP Practices, but contribute towards overall General Medical Services (GMS) investment. These include payments for Information Management and Technology (IM&T) and out-of-hours services.

The figures include expenditure relating to dispensing by GP practices, but not the costs of drugs dispensed by high street pharmacies. The total cost of all prescriptions dispensed in the community by community pharmacists, appliance contractors and dispensing doctors, can be found in the Prescription Costs Analysis produced by the Business Services Organisation (BSO). This can be found on the BSO's website at:

<http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/services/3177.htm>

Discontinued NHS Digital Publication:

Previously country level information from all 4 UK countries was discussed by the Technical Steering Committee (TSC), which is chaired by NHS Digital and has representation from the Department of Health and Social Care, UK Health Departments, NHS England and NHS Improvement, NHS Employers and the British Medical Association (BMA). Since 2003-04, NHS Digital have provided a rolling five-year time series of Investment in General Practice for each UK country. As well as providing UK-level figures, the report was intended to facilitate comparison of spending across the countries.

However, changes to general practice contractual arrangements in each country over recent years mean the payment categories and spending practices are no longer comparable. As a result, the Technical Steering Committee, which oversaw this series, decided that this UK-level report was no longer relevant or appropriate and have discontinued the series.

From 2020, each country will produce and publish its own report and NHS Digital will provide links to these reports once they are released. It is important to note that figures between these individual country reports will not be comparable due to the differing contractual arrangements which have led to the UK-level report being discontinued.

Link to previous publications:

<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/investment-in-general-practice>

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Key Facts:

In 2019-20, the total investment in general practice, including the reimbursement of drugs dispensed in general practice, was £326.507m. This represents an increase in the total investment in GP practices of 7.68 per cent in Northern Ireland. In real terms this equates to an increase of 5.64 per cent.

In 2019-20, in response to the recommendation in the report of the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration (DDRB), a 2.5% uplift was applied for GP pay and practice staff expenses and a 1.7% uplift for other expenses. This represents an investment of £5.206m.

In addition, there was £500k investment into Global Sum Equivalent in recognition of additional pressures within general practice.

The value of a Quality and Outcomes Framework point was also increased; the value for 2019-20 being set at £178.25.

Data Quality:

Assessment of the quality of the statistics and the data sources is provided in a separate document available on the publication page at:

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/articles/investment-general-practice>

Further Information:

Details of other publications of interest can be found at the end of this report.

For further information, contact:

Information & Analysis Directorate,
Department of Health,
Room 2,
Annex 2, Castle Buildings,
Stormont Estate,
Belfast,
BT4 3SQ

Responsible Statistician: Penny Murray

Telephone: 028 9052 2700

E-mail: gofdataenquiries@health-ni.gov.uk

Feedback: We welcome feedback on any aspects of these statistics. This can be provided at the e-mail address above.

Table 1: Investment in General Practice in Northern Ireland 2015-16 to 2019-20 (excluding reimbursement of drugs)

	£ Millions				
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Cash Terms	£262.771	£271.508	£280.237	£299.174	£322.268
% Change	:	3.32%	3.22%	6.76%	7.72%
Real Terms	£284.884	£287.548	£291.752	£304.964	£322.268
% Change	:	0.94%	1.46%	4.53%	5.67%

Source: Financial Information Monitoring Returns (HSCB); year ended March 2016 to 2020

Note: Further information on how the Real Terms figures have been calculated using the GDP deflator can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gross-domestic-product-gdp-deflators-user-guide>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/gdp-deflators-at-market-prices-and-money-gdp-june-2020-quarterly-national-accounts>

Real terms figures have been based on unrounded figures.

Table 2: Total Investment in General Practice in Northern Ireland 2015-16 to 2019-20

	£ Millions				
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Cash Terms	£266.760	£275.582	£284.101	£303.207	£326.507
% Change	:	3.31%	3.09%	6.72%	7.68%
Real Terms	£289.209	£291.862	£295.775	£309.074	£326.507
% Change	:	0.92%	1.34%	4.50%	5.64%

Source: Financial Information Monitoring Returns (HSCB); year ended March 2016 to 2020 Family Practitioner Services Pharmacy Payments System, BSO

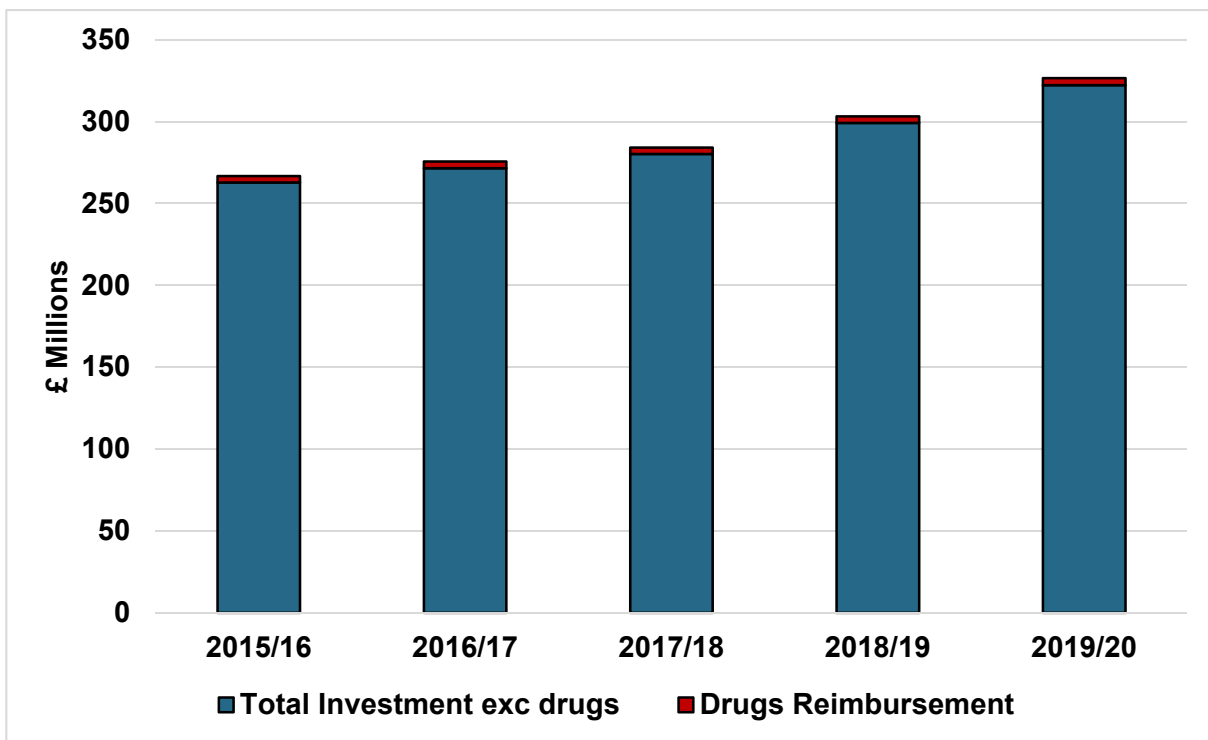
Note: Further information on how the Real Terms figures have been calculated using the GDP deflator can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gross-domestic-product-gdp-deflators-user-guide>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/gdp-deflators-at-market-prices-and-money-gdp-june-2020-quarterly-national-accounts>

Real terms figures have been based on unrounded figures.

Figure 1: Investment in General Practice in Northern Ireland, 2015-16 to 2019-20



Source: Financial Information Monitoring Returns (HSCB); year ended March 2016 to 2020
Family Practitioner Services Pharmacy Payments System, BSO

Table 3a: 5-Year Trend Summary Table

£ thousands

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Global Sum/MPIG	140,979	143,302	146,031	153,680	169,940
Quality and Outcomes Framework	30,956	30,527	30,074	30,738	31,014
Direct Enhanced Services	13,881	12,890	13,375	13,654	13,433
Local Enhanced Services	1,936	3,221	4,618	8,262	11,155
Regional Enhanced Services (including Clinical Priorities)	17,554	18,171	22,462	26,981	29,590
Total Enhanced Services¹	33,371	34,282	40,456	48,898	54,178
Premises	16,273	16,805	16,649	18,247	18,871
HSCB Administered Funds/Other GMS Services ²	11,639	13,971	14,641	15,176	16,609
Out of Hours (including OOH Development Fund)	24,475	27,157	27,616	27,307	26,388
IM and IT	4,945	5,327	4,633	4,995	5,125
Total Other Payments	57,332	63,260	63,539	65,725	66,992
Subtotal	262,638	271,371	280,100	299,041	322,124
Total Net of Dispensing	262,638	271,371	280,100	299,041	322,124
Cost of Dispensing Fees ³	133	137	137	133	144
Total Investment Excluding Reimbursement of Drugs⁴	262,771	271,508	280,237	299,174	322,268
Reimbursement of Dispensed Drugs ⁵	3,989	4,074	3,864	4,033 ⁶	4,239
Total Spend⁷	266,760	275,582	284,101	303,207	326,507

Source: Financial Information Monitoring Returns (HSCB); year ended March 2016 to 2020 Family Practitioner Services Pharmacy Payments System, BSO

1. There are no National Enhanced Services in place in Northern Ireland.
2. Dispensing element of HSCB administered funds reported on separate line.
3. This figure refers only to the cost of dispensing fees for items dispensed and/or personally administered by dispensing doctors.
4. This total includes the cost of dispensing fees but not reimbursement of the cost of drugs.
5. This total includes Net Ingredient Cost (NIC), vat allowance and discounts and stock order costs (NIC) for both dispensing doctors and non-dispensing doctors.
6. Figure has been revised since previously published in Investment in General Practice 2014-15 to 2018-19; England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland (NHS Digital).
7. Figures may not sum to total due to rounding.

Table 3b: Detailed Table 2019-20

£ thousands

Global Sum	162,949
MPIG Correction Factor	6,990
Total Global Sum and MPIG	169,940
Quality Aspiration Payments	21,609
Quality Achievement Payments	9,405
Total Quality and Outcomes Framework	31,014
Direct Enhanced Services	13,433
Local Enhanced Services	11,155
Regional Enhanced Services (including Clinical Priorities)	29,590
Total Enhanced Services¹	54,178
Premises	18,871
HSCB Administered Funds/Other GMS Services ²	16,609
Out of Hours	26,388
IM and IT	5,125
Total Other Payments	66,992
Subtotal	322,124
Total Net of Dispensing	322,124
Cost of Dispensing Fees ³	144
Total Investment Excluding Reimbursement of Drugs⁴	322,268
Reimbursement of Dispensed Drugs ⁵	4,239
Total Spend⁶	326,507

**Source: Financial Information Monitoring Returns; year ended March 2020
Family Practitioner Services Pharmacy Payments System, BSO**

1. There are no National Enhanced Services in place in Northern Ireland.
2. Dispensing element of HSCB administered funds reported on separate line.
3. This figure refers only to the cost of dispensing fees for items dispensed and/or personally administered by dispensing doctors.
4. This total includes the cost of dispensing fees but not reimbursement of the cost of drugs.
5. This total includes Net Ingredient Cost (NIC), vat allowance and discounts and stock order costs (NIC) for both dispensing doctors and non-dispensing doctors.
6. Figures may not sum to total due to rounding.

Table 3c: Supplementary Information 2019-20

£ thousands

Direct Enhanced Services	
Childhood Vaccination and Immunisation Scheme	4,883
Influenza and Pneumococcal Immunisations Scheme	4,318
Learning Disabilities	866
MEN ACWY	8
Minor Surgery	2,970
Services for Violent Patients	262
Shingles Vaccinations	126
Total Direct Enhanced Services¹	13,433
HSCB Administered Funds/Other Services	
Seniority	5,722
Doctors Retainer Scheme Payments/NI GP Development Scheme	0
Locum Allowances consisting of:	
a) Adoptive, paternity and maternity	1,482
b) Sickness	808
c) Suspended Doctors	0
d) Other Locum payments	0
Appraiser Costs of Sessional GPs	184
Practice Training	98
Interpreting	70
Treatment Room Nursing	2,702
GP Locum Superannuation	1,506
GP Consumables reimbursement scheme	643
GP Federation Infrastructure Costs	0
Medical Equipment and Data Storage	867
Miscellaneous	2,524
Total HSCB Administered Funds/Other Services¹	16,609

Source: Financial Information Monitoring Returns; year ended March 2020

1. Figures may not sum to total due to rounding.

Other Publications:

Investment in General Practice 2014-15 to 2018-19; England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland

Current Link: <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/investment-in-general-practice/2014-15-to-2018-19-england-wales-northern-ireland-and-scotland>

Summary: This report details the investment in General Practice and the reimbursement for drugs dispensed in General Practices from 2014/15 to 2018/19. The report draws on information from country level financial monitoring reports discussed by the Technical Steering Committee (TSC).

Previous Versions: <http://www.digital.nhs.uk>

2018-19 GP Earnings and Expenses Report

Current Link: <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/gp-earnings-and-expenses-estimates/2018-19>

Summary: This report presents results from the GP Earnings and Expenses Enquiry for the financial year 2018-19.

Previous Versions: <http://www.digital.nhs.uk>

The Quality and Outcomes Framework 2019-20 for Northern Ireland

Current Link: <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/articles/quality-and-outcomes-framework-qof-statistics-annual-report>

Summary: This statistical publication presents a summary of data (achievement and exceptions data) from the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF). The QOF was first implemented in general practices in April 2004. Information is derived from the Payment Calculation and Analysis System (PCAS), a NI system that uses data from NI general practices to calculate QOF achievement for individual practices.

Previous Versions: <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/quality-and-outcomes-framework-201213-201718>

Disease Prevalence Data for Northern Ireland

Current Link: <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/201920-raw-disease-prevalence-trend-data-northern-ireland>

Summary: This statistical publication presents trend data on disease prevalence collected in the form of practice registers as part of the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF). An integral part of the QOF is the collection of prevalence data to allow practices to case find those patients that require specific management.

Previous Versions: <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/200405-201819-raw-disease-prevalence-data-northern-ireland>

General Medical Services Statistics

Current Link: <http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/services/3174.htm>

Summary: The Family Practitioner Services (FPS) Information Unit of the Business Services Organisation (BSO) produces information on General Practitioners, GP practices and registered patients including registration activity and payments.

Previous Versions: <http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/services/3181.htm>