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Investment in General Practice, Northern Ireland 2016-17 to 2020-21



Department of
Health

An Roinn Sláinte

Máinnystrie O Poustie

www.health-ni.gov.uk

Investment in General Practice, Northern Ireland 2016-17 to 2020-21

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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 2016-17 to 2020-21. 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 Cost 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 agreed to produce and publish its own report, with NHS Digital providing links to these reports once 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 NHS Digital publications:

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

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Key Facts:

In 2020-21, the total investment in general practice, including the reimbursement of drugs dispensed in general practice, was £367.416m. This represents an increase in the total investment in GP practices of 12.53 per cent in Northern Ireland. In real terms this equates to an increase of 5.85 per cent.

In 2020-21, in response to the recommendation in the report of the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration (DDRB), a 2.8% uplift was applied for GP pay and practice staff expenses and a 1.1% uplift for other expenses. This represents an investment of £5.928m.

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

For 2020-21, the value of a Quality and Outcomes Framework point remained 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.

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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 2016-17 to 2020-21 (excluding reimbursement of drugs)

	£ Millions				
	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Cash Terms	£271.508	£280.237	£299.174	£322.268	£363.682
% Change	:	3.22%	6.76%	7.72%	12.85%
Real Terms	£307.311	£311.703	£325.207	£342.591	£363.682
% Change	:	1.43%	4.33%	5.35%	6.16%

Source: Financial Information Monitoring Returns (HSCB); year ended March 2017 to 2021

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-2021-quarterly-national-accounts>

Real terms figures have been based on unrounded figures.

Table 2: Total Investment in General Practice in Northern Ireland 2016-17 to 2020-21

	£ Millions				
	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Cash Terms	£275.582	£284.101	£303.207	£326.507	£367.416
% Change	:	3.09%	6.72%	7.68%	12.53%
Real Terms	£311.922	£316.000	£329.591	£347.097	£367.416
% Change	:	1.31%	4.30%	5.31%	5.85%

**Source: Financial Information Monitoring Returns (HSCB); year ended March 2017 to 2021
Family Practitioner Services Pharmacy Payments System, BSO**

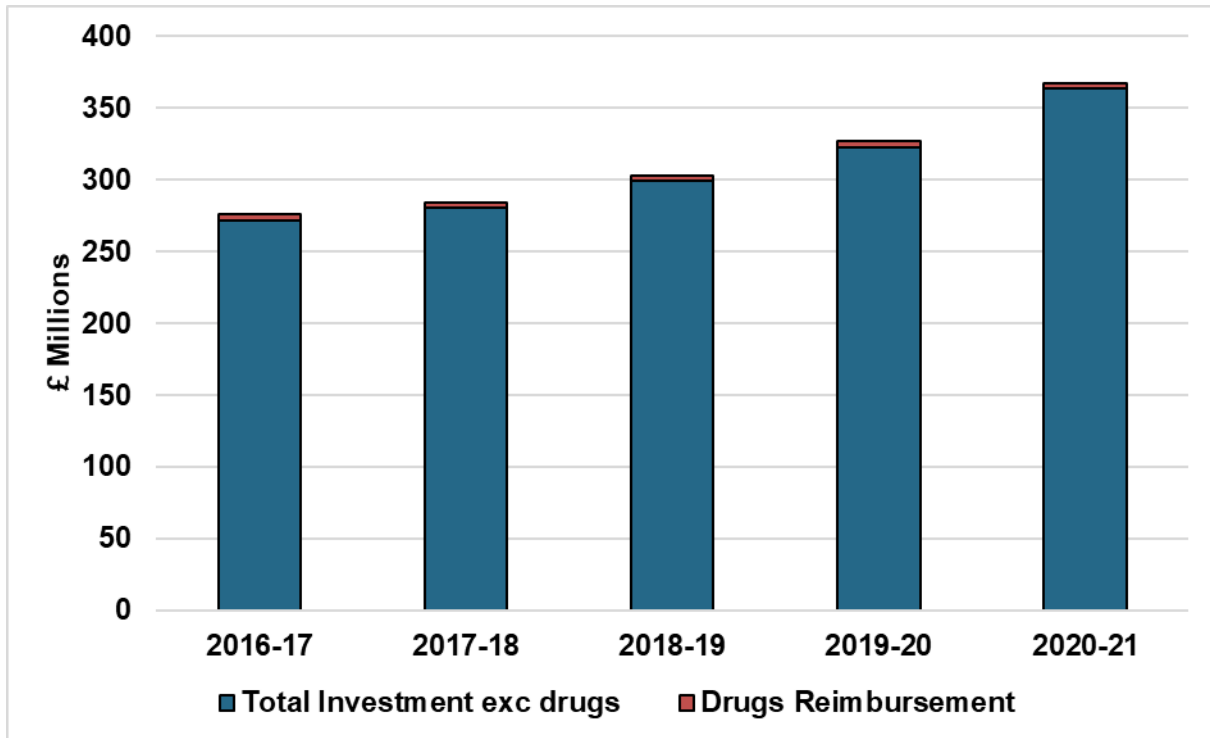
Note: Further information on how the Real Terms figures have been calculated using the GDP deflator can be found at:

<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-2021-quarterly-national-accounts>

Real terms figures have been based on unrounded figures.

Figure 1: Investment in General Practice in Northern Ireland, 2016-17 to 2020-21



**Source: Financial Information Monitoring Returns (HSCB); year ended March 2017 to 2021
Family Practitioner Services Pharmacy Payments System, BSO**

Table 3a: 5-Year Trend Summary Table

£ thousands

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Global Sum/MPIG	143,302	146,031	153,680	169,940	176,372
Quality and Outcomes Framework	30,527	30,074	30,738	31,014	31,645
Direct Enhanced Services	12,890	13,375	13,654	13,433	14,814
Local Enhanced Services ¹	3,221	4,618	8,262	11,155	37,148
Regional Enhanced Services (including Clinical Priorities)	18,171	22,462	26,981	29,590	35,749
Total Enhanced Services²	34,282	40,456	48,898	54,178	87,712
Premises	16,805	16,649	18,247	18,871	18,370
HSCB Administered Funds/Other GMS Services ³	13,971	14,641	15,176	16,609	18,503
Out of Hours (including OOH Development Fund)	27,157	27,616	27,307	26,388	25,928
IM and IT	5,327	4,633	4,995	5,125	5,020
Total Other Payments	63,260	63,539	65,725	66,992	67,821
Subtotal	271,371	280,100	299,041	322,124	363,550
Total Net of Dispensing	271,371	280,100	299,041	322,124	363,550
Cost of Dispensing Fees ⁴	137	137	133	144	132
Total Investment Excluding Reimbursement of Drugs⁵	271,508	280,237	299,174	322,268	363,682
Reimbursement of Dispensed Drugs ⁶	4,074	3,864	4,033 ⁷	4,239	3,734
Total Spend⁸	275,582	284,101	303,207	326,507	367,416

**Source: Financial Information Monitoring Returns (HSCB); year ended March 2017 to 2021
Family Practitioner Services Pharmacy Payments System, BSO**

1. 2020-21 includes funding in relation to Covid 19 response.
2. There are no National Enhanced Services in place in Northern Ireland.
3. Dispensing element of HSCB administered funds reported on separate line.
4. This figure refers only to the cost of dispensing fees for items dispensed and/or personally administered by dispensing doctors.
5. This total includes the cost of dispensing fees but not reimbursement of the cost of drugs.
6. This total includes Net Ingredient Cost (NIC), vat allowance and discounts and stock order costs (NIC) for both dispensing doctors and non-dispensing doctors.
7. 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).
8. Figures may not sum to total due to rounding.

Table 3b: Detailed Table 2020-21

£ thousands

Global Sum	168,867
MPIG Correction Factor	7,505
Total Global Sum and MPIG	176,372
Quality Aspiration Payments	22,005
Quality Achievement Payments	9,640
Total Quality and Outcomes Framework	31,645
Direct Enhanced Services	14,814
Local Enhanced Services ¹	37,148
Regional Enhanced Services (including Clinical Priorities)	35,749
Total Enhanced Services²	87,712
Premises	18,370
HSCB Administered Funds/Other GMS Services ³	18,503
Out of Hours	25,928
IM and IT	5,020
Total Other Payments	67,821
Subtotal	363,550
Total Net of Dispensing	363,550
Cost of Dispensing Fees ⁴	132
Total Investment Excluding Reimbursement of Drugs⁵	363,682
Reimbursement of Dispensed Drugs ⁶	3,734
Total Spend⁷	367,416

**Source: Financial Information Monitoring Returns; year ended March 2021
Family Practitioner Services Pharmacy Payments System, BSO**

1. Includes funding in relation to Covid 19 response.
2. There are no National Enhanced Services in place in Northern Ireland.
3. Dispensing element of HSCB administered funds reported on separate line.
4. This figure refers only to the cost of dispensing fees for items dispensed and/or personally administered by dispensing doctors.
5. This total includes the cost of dispensing fees but not reimbursement of the cost of drugs.
6. This total includes Net Ingredient Cost (NIC), vat allowance and discounts and stock order costs (NIC) for both dispensing doctors and non-dispensing doctors.
7. Figures may not sum to total due to rounding.

Table 3c: Supplementary Information 2020-21

£ thousands

Direct Enhanced Services	
Childhood Vaccination and Immunisation Scheme	4,603
Influenza and Pneumococcal Immunisations Scheme	5,519
Learning Disabilities	904
MEN ACWY	20
Minor Surgery	3,326
Services for Violent Patients	285
Shingles Vaccinations	157
Total Direct Enhanced Services¹	14,814
HSCB Administered Funds/Other Services	
Seniority	5,845
Doctors Retainer Scheme Payments/NI GP Development Scheme	0
Locum Allowances consisting of:	
a) Adoptive, paternity and maternity	1,093
b) Sickness	1,056
c) Suspended Doctors	0
d) Other Locum payments	0
Appraiser Costs of Sessional GPs	38
Practice Training	247
Interpreting	63
Treatment Room Nursing	2,778
GP Locum Superannuation	1,475
GP Consumables reimbursement scheme	562
GP Federation Infrastructure Costs	0
Medical Equipment and Data Storage ²	3,535
Miscellaneous	1,811
Total HSCB Administered Funds/Other Services¹	18,503

Source: Financial Information Monitoring Returns; year ended March 2021

1. Figures may not sum to total due to rounding.
2. Includes funding in relation to Covid 19 response Personal Protective Equipment.

Other Publications:

Investment in General Practice in England, 2015/16 to 2019/20

Current Link: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/investment-in-general-practice-in-england-2015-16-to-2019-20/>

Summary: This report details the investment in General Practice and the reimbursement for drugs dispensed in General Practices in England from 2015/16 to 2019/20. The report draws on information from the financial reporting systems of NHS England and Improvement and other published data on reimbursement and remuneration for dispensing activity. This information has been discussed with the General Practitioners Committee (GPC) of the British Medical Association (BMA), which represents the interests of GPs.

Previous Versions: This is the first year of this publication. Previously NHS Digital published country level information for all 4 UK countries, see below.

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). This series has been discontinued.

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

2019-20 GP Earnings and Expenses Report

Current Link: <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/gp-earnings-and-expenses-estimates/2019-20>

Summary: This report presents results from the GP Earnings and Expenses Enquiry for the financial year 2019-20.

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-gof-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-201213-201819>

Disease Prevalence Data for Northern Ireland

Current Link: <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/202021-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/200405-201920-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>