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— 30 November 2020


Health and Care Covid Bonus

I write to inform you that it is my intention to provide NHS staff with a one off pro-rata £500 bonus payment in recognition of their efforts in responding to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. This payment will also be extended to social care staff.

All through the pandemic NHS staff have provided, and continue to provide, vital front line services, ensuring the people of Scotland receive health care at this most difficult and challenging of times. The people of Scotland publicly showed their appreciation for the work of our incredible NHS staff and the Scottish Government shares that appreciation, which is why we want to continue to recognise and demonstrate the value we place on health workers by way of this gesture.

The payment will be for all NHS staff who have been active in the NHS since 17 March 2020, including those who were employed on a temporary basis or who have since retired. All General Practitioners and practice staff, along with staff providing GP, dental, pharmacy and optometry services under independent contractor arrangements will also receive the payment.

My officials will instruct NHS Boards via a pay and conditions circular (PCS) to make this payment as soon as is practical.

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This is a tangible contribution towards recognising the value of these frontline staff. Freezing NHS staff pay in 2021/22 is not the policy of the Scottish Government, and we will continue in our plan to provide evidence to the Doctors and Dentist Pay Review Body for recommendations for a fair pay uplift for Medical and Dental staff in 2021/22.

Kind regards
Jeane
JEANE FREEMAN

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