

Easy read summary **NHS in Scotland 2024**





The Scottish Government has given more money to the NHS.

The number of NHS staff has also increased.



The cost of health services takes up nearly half (40 per cent) of the Scottish budget.



Things that are not going well are:

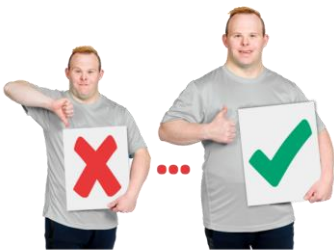
- not as many patients are being seen compared to before the pandemic



- the amount of time that people wait to get an NHS service has not got less



- people are waiting too long in A&E to be treated or transferred to other hospital services.



The Government and NHS are trying different things to make services better.



So far they have not made any difference.



The number of patients who are waiting to leave hospital is higher than it has ever been.

We think that:



- more people will need NHS services in the future
- NHS services will cost more.



That means it is very important that services must be delivered differently.



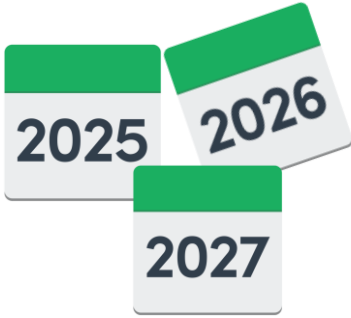
The NHS may have to stop providing some services.



The Scottish Government needs a **delivery plan** so that NHS services can cope.

A **delivery plan** sets out:

- what work will happen
- when it will happen
- when it will be finished.



The delivery plan must include:

- how things will change in the future



- good leadership



- good **governance** – how organisations work, what they are responsible for and which people are in charge



- a greater focus on improving the health of Scotland's people.



The Government also needs clearer plans for:

- how it will spend money



- how it looks after hospital buildings.



NHS **boards** need to be able to look after their money better.



Board members look at the work an organisation is doing and check it is working well.