



## **RCN Scotland response to the Health and Sport Committee call for evidence on the Scottish Government Draft Budget 2016-17**

The Royal College of Nursing is the world's largest professional union of nurses, representing around 415,000 nurses, midwives, health visitors, nursing students and health care support workers, including nearly 40,000 in Scotland. Our members work across the NHS, third and independent sectors.

We are delighted to provide evidence to the committee once again as part of the annual budget cycle. Although we clearly cannot comment on actual funding decisions for 2016-17 at this stage, we hope that the comments below will support the committee in its scrutiny of future funding. The main body of our response focuses on the first question asked in the call for evidence.

### **Do you consider that Scottish Government spending on health reflects its stated priorities?**

#### **General comments**

The RCN is left with a number of questions about this decision to allocate new resources.

Given that the Scottish Government's 2020 policy vision remains focused on community-based care, why is this investment more than three times the new funding of £60m over three years to reform the primary care sector<sup>2</sup>?

What is the evidence base on which this investment decision was taken and which national performance measure(s) is it intended to address?

Targets continue to set the line of sight of boards, of government, of parliament and of the media. However, we do not believe they are driving the fundamental changes to healthcare we will need to see. Nor are they helping politicians, managers, staff and the public to embrace a new set of priorities for public spending that may require disinvestment to develop new areas of service that better meet demand and reduce the need for urgent care.

Delayed discharge

Five of the 14 boards raise this as particular risk and note the links between meeting this

