

PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FAO: LOCAL REPORTERS

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RECORD NHS STAFF LEVELS IN FIFE WITH 4% GROWTH IN 10 YEARS

Over the last 10 years the number of staff working in NHS Fife has risen by 4%, new figures published this week reveal.

At the end of 2016, there was over 7280 staff working in NHS Fife and an overall headcount of 162,302 staff across NHS Scotland, with nearly 1,000 of these staff recruited in the last year. In the same year, health spending per head was 7.2% higher in Scotland compared to England, where the health service has been described by the Red Cross as facing a “humanitarian crisis”.

Commenting, David Torrance, SNP MSP for Kirkcaldy Constituency, said:

“Ten years of SNP Government has produced 12,200 more staff working in our NHS in Scotland and there’s been a 4% increase in health service staff in Fife in that time.

“While health spending in Scotland is expected to rise to over £13bn in 2017-18 - with an additional £17.6million for NHS Fife - the NHS in England was described by the Red Cross as facing a humanitarian crisis and hundreds of thousands of protesters are marching against cut backs of up to two-thirds to health services across England.

“With demand on our NHS rising, the SNP is committed to ensuring our workforce is fit for the future and equipped for the challenges ahead. While the Tories in Westminster scrapped the nurse student bursary, we retained it in Scotland and created a £1m fund for nursing and midwifery students facing financial struggles at the same time.

“We are seeing real progress in Scotland’s NHS, and the SNP will never stop working to ensure that people in Scotland enjoy the first-rate health service they deserve.”

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITOR:

More information can be found here:

<https://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Workforce/Publications/2017-03-07/2017-03-07-Workforce-Summary.pdf>

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