



Working in Partnership with Universities

Public Board Meeting

Scottish Ambulance

Service

29 January 2025 Item No 09

THIS PAPER IS FOR DISCUSSION

SUMMARY FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE TO 31 DECEMBER 2024

| Lead Director | Julie Carter, Director of Finance, Logistics and | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| | Strategy | | | | |
| Author | Maria McFeat, Deputy Director of Finance | | | | |
| Action required | The Board is asked to discuss and note: The financial position to the end of December 2024 The updated position on the funding position relating to post COVID/system pressures to the end of December 2024 More detailed analysis on overtime performance given the best value savings assumptions within the financial plan The impact of the overall efficiency savings position to the end of December 2024. On the basis of the funding received, a revised full year | | | | |
| | forecast has been completed and will be reviewed on a monthly basis. | | | | |
| Key points | The financial position at the end of month 9 is reporting a deficit of £0.87 million, reflecting both the additional £5.0 million recurring funding received to offset operational commitments and £9.0 million non-recurring in respect of post COVID/system pressures. Impact of ongoing post COVID/system pressures of £6.82 million have been incurred over this period and been offset against the £9.0 million full year funding received. A detailed analysis of the key drivers of high overtime costs are included within the paper, driver for these include higher shift cover to manage increased demand. In relation to the £12.0 million efficiency savings target, to date £7.85 million has been delivered against a year to date £9.2 million. The full year trajectory has been assumed within the revised forecast and is updated within the paper. The revised full year forecast of £17.5 million deficit reported previously to month 8 is now reporting a break even position, enabled through receiving additional funding for the ongoing COVID/system pressures. As review of phasing of costs pressures and non-recurring slippage in the reduced working week implemented, this break even position remains on track. The agenda for change reform funding received has been | | | | |

| | offset against the reduced working week additional costs. | | |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|
| Timing | During the financial year the Board will be provided with monthly updates on the financial position and the final year end forecast position will also be reported. | | |
| Associated Corporate Risk Identification | Risk ID 5602 – failure to achieve financial target | | |
| Link to Corporate ambitions | This paper relates to: We will Work collaboratively with citizens and our partners to create healthier and safer communities Innovate to continuously improve our care and enhance the resilience and sustainability of our services Improve population health and tackle the impact of inequalities Deliver our net zero climate targets Provide the people of Scotland with compassionate, safe and effective care when and where they need it Be a great place to work, focusing on staff experience, health and wellbeing. | | |
| Link to NHS Scotland's quality ambitions | This paper is aligned to and supports all three of NHS Scotland's quality ambitions to enable our workforce to provide safe, effective and person centred care. | | |
| Benefit to Patients | Efficient and effective use of resources enables the Service to provide the best level of safe and effective care to patients as it can within the resources available. | | |
| Climate Change Impact Identification | This paper has identified no impact on climate change. | | |
| Equality and Diversity | The Service works with a wide range of patient and community groups to help ensure that the feedback gathered is representative of communities across Scotland. Patient feedback is closely linked to the Equality Outcomes work. | | |





SCOTTISH AMBULANCE SERVICE BOARD

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE TO 31 DECEMBER 2024

JULIE CARTER, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, LOGISTICS & STRATEGY

This paper sets out the financial position as at 31 December 2024 for the Scottish Ambulance Service.

The financial plan projected a deficit position of £18.35 million for the year. As described within the plan this deficit includes post COVID related pressures of £9.0 million, ongoing unfunded operational commitments of £3.1 million, air ambulance contract extension costs of £4.2 million, with the balance of £2.0 million relating to non pay pressures, offset by the delivery of £12.0 million efficiency savings.

The Board is asked to note the reporting against this plan:

- The overall financial position for the 9 months to December 2024
- The post-COVID and operational commitments, their financial impact and how the additional £5.0 million recurring funds received at the end of Q1 and the £9.0 million for COVID/system pressures non-recurring funds received impacts on these ongoing pressures
- Progress against the delivery of the £12.0 million in-year savings target
- Specific reference to overtime costs in relation to the £3.5 million reduction assumed within the £12.0 million efficiency plans
- the additional costs of the AfC Reform, Reduced Working Week and note the funding now received
- An update on the revised full year forecast outturn of a breakeven financial position.

The financial position to December 2024, reporting a deficit position to date, consists of:

- Income this is reporting a breakeven position
- Core Expenditure a deficit position of £0.87 million against a trajectory deficit of £15.0 million to December 2024. Noting that the trajectory assumed no additional funding would be received, phasing of savings implementation and cost pressures.
- The financial impact of post COVID-19 pressures represents expenditure of £6.82 million in the period against a full year pressure of £9.0 million. This is broadly in line with the financial plan. £9.0 million funding was received last month. As in previous years this has been received on a non-recurring basis.
- Efficiency savings target for the financial year was £12.0 million. To date, £7.85 million of savings has been achieved against a target to date of £9.2 million. This now reflects the ongoing work in measuring the benefits of the delivery of the local efficiency plans and the best value programme. A number of actions have been progressed and the updated full

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year forecast scenario now reflects a revised position to aim to achieve the £12.0 million target.

Key messages

- A deficit position of £0.87 million as at 31 December 2024 (this includes both core and non-core expenditure, and income) against the original financial plan trajectory deficit of £15.0 million at the end of December 2024.
- This deficit position to December 2024 is driven by the following:
 - Surplus Pay position of £4.27 million, of which Overtime is £3.43 million over budget showing an increase of 0.3% in costs from the same period last year.
 - Non-pay pressures of £2.03 million, this is after additional full year budget of £9.55 million
 - Underachievement of the Efficiency Savings Target to date by £1.35 million. This is against our efficiency savings target of £12.0 million, the target for the 9 months to December was £9.2 million of which £7.85 million was achieved. The trajectory has been phased recognising a generally slower start to the year.
 - Ongoing COVID legacy pressures of £6.82 million that have been identified to date. This is reporting broadly in line with the plan at this stage in the financial year
 - Continued overtime cost pressures. These are a key driver in the delivery of the £12.0 million efficiency plan. Although Overtime hours are now lower than incurred previous YTD, costs have increased from the same period last year due to higher pay awards. In addition, there is increased shift cover to meet demand pressures. A number of improved control actions and reporting is in place and the full year forecast scenarios assumes the impact of these actions.

Key actions agreed in this period

The key focus of the financial plan, throughout this year is the delivery of the Back to Balance action plan. This included the following 3 key areas:

- 1. Delivery of the efficiency savings and best value programme
- 2. Focus on reduction in overspend and high spend areas
- 3. Recognition through funding of wider system (post COVID and committed operational pressures).

1. Delivery of our Efficiency Savings Target and best value programmes

The challenging savings target for 2024/25 has been set at £12.0 million. Work continues in identifying new areas to bridge the gap to also feed into the 2025/26 financial plan. Whilst the focus continues to ensure actions and plans are in place to deliver the £12.0 million (3%) efficiency target, the forecast outturn balanced budget also ensures the focus is on measuring and reporting on the impact of these plans. As reported previously the aim is to deliver the £12.0 million savings target, albeit there is a likely to be a higher than planned level of non recurring savings assumed and this is being closely monitored.

In this period savings of \pounds 7.85 million have been achieved against a year to date trajectory of \pounds 9.2 million.

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ACTION: The Best Value Programme continues to operate effectively with project mandates completed for all of the programmes. These have been agreed by the Best Value Steering Group. The focus continues on delivering the actions defined in the plans. Budgets have been allocated and agreed with budget holders, with improved budget management guidance and detailed local efficiency plans continually being developed and reviewed on a monthly basis. An updated governance process has also been agreed by the Best Value Steering Group with clear escalation plans also in place.

In response to the slower start to the year in efficiency plans delivery, a weekly executive led oversight group and operational group has been established with the primary focus on overtime controls and operational impacts, acceleration of best value savings plans and reducing high spend areas. The weekly oversight board includes the executive team and the operational group is represented by senior operational managers. It is intended the focus of this group will continue on the delivery of the 2024/25 plans and the development and implementation of the 2025/26 plans.

2. Overtime Costs

Overtime costs are a key focus within the 2024/25 financial plan with the rising costs post COVID and an agreed reduction of £3.5 million was assumed to be delivered in this financial year, included within the £12 million efficiency savings. Whilst additional controls are in place and OT hours are down from last year by 3.9%, costs for the first 9 months of the year are slightly higher than the same period last year primarily driven by higher shift cover in the earlier months of this year to meet higher demand pressures and additional costs of pay awards. It is important to note that if, the additional controls had not been put in place the financial impact could be much more significant. In addition, significant work remains in progress to continue to critically review the other key drivers of overtime and to take corrective action.

ACTION: Detailed real time reports have been developed and being actively used by the budget holders on a weekly basis. The analysis of the overtime costs are focused on aiming to reduce the gap that generates the overtime. This is generated by a range of issues including annual leave, sick leave, training and vacancies. The analysis is also used to then consider if the shift requires cover, based upon demand, which to date has resulted in increased shift cover and costs to meet the increasing demand. The overtime dashboard that has been developed enables detailed scrutiny, decision making and provides assurance that actions being progressed effectively at a local level.

To support budget holders the weekly meeting with operational leads agrees common approaches, share best practice, agree variations and reduce unfunded shifts. In addition, the weekly Executive meetings reviews and approves outputs from the weekly meeting and works to put in place more sustainable solutions to deliver the plan. A number of specific actions have been agreed including

- Understanding the operational impact of reduced shift cover scenarios with supporting guidance being developed
- Areas of actions to support the reduction in sickness absence, as a key driver for gaps in the service and
- Actions to implement the new overtime policy that is being finalised

3. (a) Post COVID pressures

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The impact of COVID-19 system pressures on our financial position has been reported since February 2020. Our financial plan estimates this impact for 2024/25 to be £9.0 million for the year. Very positive discussions had progressed with Scottish Government describing the positive impact of these actions across the wider system. Funding for these pressures in 2024/25 has now been received on a non-recurring basis in line with the full year forecast expenditure.

ACTION: There are a range of actions being undertaken within the Service to continually review and monitor these costs, while balancing operational service impact. Specifically, this includes benchmarking, a further review of staffing against demand projections and an improvement programme supporting the timed admissions development. We will continue to monitor these costs, and have assumed within the full year forecast that the costs will be contained within the £9.0 million funding received.

Financial Risk considerations noted in the period.

The key financial risks are detailed below with mitigating actions also described.

Delivery of Efficiency Savings Target including Best Value

The requirement to ensure the delivery of efficiency savings remains a continued key focus for the Service. A well-established governance process is in place and has been updated for 2024/25. The financial plan identified a number of programmes and significant focus is currently on implementing, tracking and reporting on these. It is also recognised that delivery of financial savings, both recurring and non-recurring becomes a greater risk in each additional year, as the ability to deliver these becomes more challenging so the focus also remains on identifying medium to long-term opportunities.

Delivery of our financial targets continues to be highlighted as a very high risk in our corporate risk register and is monitored in line with this risk profile.

Action – A number of actions as noted below are in place:

- focussed Program Management Office (PMO) support aligned to the high impact high priority schemes to provide additional focus and capacity, this has been strengthened on specific efficiency programmes including Air Ambulance and Medical Gases
- Executive leads and finance support for each programme have been identified and agreed and included within Executive Director objectives, this also includes the implementation of a budget contract process in 2024/25
- Reporting of Progress and scrutiny through the Best Value Steering Group meeting every month, with regular reporting to Executive Team, Performance and Planning Steering Group and Audit and Risk Committee
- Updated Governance policies and procedures are in place with agreed with clear escalation plans identified.
- Linking our programmes to our 2030 strategy ambitions and our 5 portfolio boards for oversight, prioritisation and Board reporting.
- Monthly highlight reports completed to report on progress and project mandates completed for all programmes, with corrective action discussed at the weekly finance executive meeting and the best value steering group

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- Implementation of our ideas box to ensure all staff can identify and contribute to new ideas, and then translated into project mandates
- Ongoing communication of the financial challenges through the Service, the issues coming up and the role that everyone has to play.
- A weekly Executive finance team meeting discussing and resolving challenges and issues supported by a weekly operational finance group
- A detailed performance measurement framework highlighting the progress and identifying quickly if further action is required.

Securing Funding in 2024/25 for post COVID pressures and recurring in future years

The 2024/25 financial plan assumed expenditure relating to post COVID related pressures and unfunded operational commitments. During the first quarter an additional £5 million recurring funding was received by the Service, this will offset unfunded operational commitments as described in the financial plan.

Post COVID pressures remained unfunded in the first half of this financial year, and following positive discussions with Scottish Government the funding for the post COVID/system pressures was received this month in full. As in previous years this has been allocated on a non-recurring basis. Whilst work is progressing internally to reduce these costs as much as possible, significant pressures remain in the system recurringly. These include delays in hospital turnaround times with related knock-on cost pressures in addition to significant patient safety issues; increased staffing for call handlers due to the 999 demand and timed admission resources taking pressure off A&E ambulance resources. These are likely to remain a key feature of the 2025/26 financial plan.

Action

The back to balance plan aims to continue to describe the significant system impact on these service pressure areas across the wider NHS system and importantly the impact on patient care if these were to be ceased. In addition, the Service continues to review the costs and impact of these areas with specific work taking place on reviewing demand assumptions, action plans in place to reduce hospital turnaround times and an improvement plan for timed admissions.

Agenda for Change Reform - Reduction in the Working Week (RWW), Band 5 to Band 6 Nursing and Protected Learning

As part of the Agenda for Change pay deal in 2023/24, it was agreed that the working week would reduce from 37.5 hours to 36 hours, with the reduction from 37.5 hours to 37 hours from April 2024. The implementation of this has commenced and an assessment of the additional costs for 2024/25 has been presented to Scottish Government and funding received.

This RWW is being implemented through accrued hours and backfilled through overtime. The monitoring processes for this are in place. The costs within this reporting period are estimated at £2.02 million. The full year costs for the SAS agenda for change reform in 2024/25 have been estimated and Scottish Government confirmed provision of the funding in month 6.

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Noting that whilst this is received as non recurring funding, Scottish Government have acknowledged that the additional posts required to be put in place will be recurring.

Action

The costing model had been shared with SG Finance and funding has now been received. The year to date costs estimated at £2.02 million, are now been funded. Information is now being analysed to determine the likely full year forecast of costs in 2024/25, including any non recurring timing benefit as posts are being filled. This has been estimated and included within the revised year end forecast.

Feeback from Scottish Government in response to the submission of our 2024-2027 Finance plan

As noted previously, the Service as part of the first quarter finance submission to Scottish Government has been requested to submit actions against the following asks, and to be incorporated into the formal quarter 2 update to the Scottish Government.

This update which is being reported on a monthly basis, was also included within the Quarter 2 finance submission to Scottish Government, and has been updated below:

| Feedback from SG | Actions in Progress (updated at December 2024) |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Develop options to meet any unidentified or high risk savings balances | Accelerated work continues in identifying actions and savings for those efficiency plans that have not yet got a final plan in place and potentially new plans, including: Work on medical gases - a project brief has now been approved and being implemented Health and safety in reducing claims - mandate and actions are now finalised Occupational health review – actions will be progressed through the newly established Reducing Absence Oversight Board Detailed Local efficiency plans - action plans are all in place and monitored on a monthly basis Deep dive into contract management opportunities - new contract guidance was issued week of the 12th August and benefits will be monitored Fuel use opportunities - data issued to budget holders and will be refreshed again in Q3. A dashboard has also been created and is being tested within the East region Events guidance – to ensure the Service is not incurring addition cost for attendance at events without associated income. New guidance has been agreed and issued in Sept 2024, with monthly monitoring meetings now in place. |
| Continue to progress with the areas of focus set out in the 15 box grid to | This is currently in place with reporting of progress on the actions to the Performance and Planning Steering Group. In addition the self assessment has been |

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| support the minimum 3% recurrent savings target. | completed and presented to the October Audit and Risk Committee. |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Engage and take proactive involvement in supporting national programmes as they develop in 2024/25. | The Director of Finance and the Deputy Director of Finance attending the relevant groups and feeding back actions to the monthly Best Value Steering Group. |
| Develop further measures to reduce the Board's residual financial gap. | Specific additional actions in place are: Enhanced overtime reporting and scrutiny with tracking of savings and cost drivers in place Enhanced Budget reporting with new budget 'contracts' in place and increasing grip and control and all signed by budget holders Escalation plan approved and in place if required to be actioned Weekly executive finance meetings to unblock challenges and accelerate actions Absence Management oversight group established |
| Provide an update on the financial risks outlined within the financial plan to assess likelihood of these materialising and the impact these could have on the Board's outturn. | Actions updated on a monthly basis for the Board corporate risk register |

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Finance outturn position as at December 2024

Introduction

This section of the paper provides details of the financial results for the period ending December 2024

For the purpose of understanding the financial data tabled within this report, the following guidelines are provided:

- All Income budget and actual figures are presented as credit values (in brackets), a positive variance value against income reflects an improved performance against income plan whereas a negative variance is reflective of an underperformance contrary to income plan.
- All Expenditure budget and actual values are shown as positive figures; a positive variance value against expenditure reflects a favourable under-spend against budget plan whereas a negative variance is reflected of an adverse performance on budget plan.

SUMMARY OF YEAR TO DATE POSITION

Table 1 reports that the revenue position for the financial year to the end of December 2024 is a deficit of £0.87 million, made up of the following:

- Income breakeven
- Expenditure Pay under budget by £4.27 million
- Expenditure Supplies and asset disposal over budget by £2.03 million
- Savings below target by £1.35 million
- Expenditure Non-core break even
- This position includes now funded legacy COVID expenditure of £6.82 million

This position includes £2.03 million of new non pay pressures beyond the already budgeted increase of £9.55 million which is described further in the paper, after offsetting underspends in Office Running £0.028 million, Training Costs £0.1 million and Vehicle Running (incl Diesel) costs £0.75 million. Air Ambulance reflects a continuing underlying overspend at £0.27 million.

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Table 1 – Scottish Ambulance Service high-level overview

| | REV | YEAR TO 31 | | YSIS | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|--|
| | | | Year to Date | | | Current Month | | |
| | Full Year Budget £'000 | Budget £'000 | Actual £'000 | Variance £'000 | Budget £'000 | Actual £'000 | Variance £'000 | |
| Income | | | | | | | | |
| Revenue Allocation Health Board Other Healthcare Fleet | 462,728 7,348 658 22 | 344,217 6,079 474 22 | 344,217 6,079 471 22 | 0 (3) 0 | 36,366 788 64 | 8 788 57 1 | 0 (7) 0 | |
| Staff Car Deductions Other Operating | 155 2,745 | 109 2,562 | 103 2,537 | (6) (25) | 12 293 | | 0 (5) | |
| Total Income | 473,656 | 353,463 | 353,429 | (35) | 37,524 | 37,512 | (13) | |
| Expenditure | Expenditure | | | | | | | |
| Accident & Emergency Non Emergency Service Air Ambulance Overheads Total Expenditure | 309,498 33,903 18,282 90,658 452,341 | 233,717 26,042 13,934 58,455 332,148 | 235,040 23,291 14,525 60,124 332,980 | (1,323) 2,751 (591) (1,669) (832) | 25,761 2,885 1,282 7,596 37,524 | 2,609 1,316 6,808 | | |
| Core Expenditure Variance | | | | (867) | | | 591 | |
| Non Core Expenditure | | | | (007) | | | | |
| Depreciation (DEL) Depreciation (Donated) AME Provision AME Impairments Non Cash (DEL) Total Non Core Expenditure | 20,500 65 0 750 0 21,315 | 15,400 42 0 0 0 15,442 | 15,400 42 0 0 0 15,442 | 0 0 0 0 0 | 1,695 2 0 1,699 | 4 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 | |
| Surplus / (Deficit) | | | | (867) | | | 591 | |

SCOTTISH AMBULANCE SERVICE BOARD REVENUE RESOURCE ANALYSIS YEAR TO 31 DEC 2024

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Table 2 – Income and Expenditure

Table 2 provides the year-to-date position between service and support directorates. COVID-19 expenditure and unfunded operational commitments are included within these figures.

| | YEAR TO 31 DEC 2024 | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | | | Cumulativ | e to Date | | ĺ | | Current | Period | |
| | | Budget £'000 | Actual £'000 | Variance £'000 | Variance % | | Budget £'000 | Actual £'000 | Variance £'000 | Variance % |
| Service Delivery Directorate | Income Salaries Supplies Sav Target Sav Realised | (7,405) 254,218 29,322 (2,491) 1,123 | (7,446) 249,193 30,031 0 0 | 41 5,025 (709) (2,491) 1,123 2,989 | 1% -2% 2% 0% 0% | | (959) 28,142 3,211 (487) 1 | (998) 27,418 3,595 0 0 | 39 724 (384) (487) 1 | 4% -3% 12% 0% 0% |
| | | | | | | | | | (107) | |
| Support Services Directorates | Income Salaries Supplies Sav Target Sav Realised Reserves | (1,842) 26,106 41,014 (6,713) 6,724 (1,713) | (1,766) 26,861 42,338 0 0 0 | (76) (755) (1,324) (6,713) 6,724 (1,713) | -4% 3% 3% 0% 0% | | (200) 3,005 4,364 (1,314) 2,441 (141) | (149) 3,142 4,463 0 0 0 | (51) (137) (99) (1,314) 2,441 (141) | -26% 5% 2% 0% 0% |
| | | | | (3,857) | | | | | 699 | |
| SCOTTISH AMBULANCE SERVICE | Income Salaries Supplies Sav Target Sav Realised Reserves | (9,247) 280,324 70,336 (9,204) 7,847 (1,713) | (9,212) 276,054 72,369 0 0 0 | (35) 4,270 (2,033) (9,204) 7,847 (1,712) | 0% 2% -3% | | (1,159) 31,147 7,575 (1,801) 2,442 (141) | (1,147) 30,560 8,058 0 0 0 | (12) 587 (483) (1,801) 2,442 (140) | -1% 2% -6% |
| | | | | (867) | | | | | 593 | |

SCOTTISH AMBULANCE SERVICE BOARD INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

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Table 3 – Service Delivery

Service delivery outturn is under budget by £3.0 million at 31 December 2024. Pay costs are reporting an underspend of £5.0 million over all service areas, the main driver of this being a skill mix variation against a historical budget, and vacancies, including RWW pressures of £2.02 million and COVID/System pressures of £6.04 million now being funded. However, it should be noted that this is offset by, as previously reported, Overtime as a result of HTAT pressures, shift cover, abstractions and sickness.

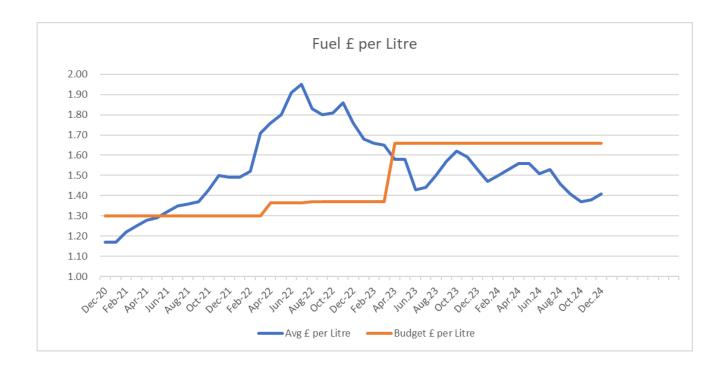
Air Ambulance Costs have reported a 1.35% increase YTD (3.7% increase YTD to M8) in the number of GAMA air ambulance missions in these 9 months from the same period last year, up from the reduction reported for the first five months yearly comparison, and as we go into the winter months, this may continue, but December saw an increase in the GAMA missions, however not as much of an increase as previous year, hence the lower YTD %. Importantly, although there has also been a continuing reduction in the chargeable MACA missions from last year, 42 missions YTD (33 reported from last month), there is however a pressure because of inflationary uplifts in the hourly rates charged by MCA. 72.3% of the chargeable MCA missions occurred because of weather conditions and/or bariatric patients.



The graph below charts the GAMA missions over the 9 months to date.

For Diesel, which assumes £1.66 per litre, fuel prices have reduced continually since the highest point last summer, and with the average price per litre peaking at £1.62 in October 2023, and dropping again to finish at £1.41 in December 2024, we reported a continuing underspend on Diesel costs of £0.622 million for the 9 months to December 2024. Some of this benefit has now been taken as non-recurring savings supporting the continued use of electric vehicles.

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SCOTTISH AMBULANCE SERVICE BOARD INCOME AND EXPENDITURE BY DIRECTORATE YEAR TO 31 DEC 2024

| | | | Cumulativ | e to Date | | | Current | Period | |
|---------------------------|--------------|---------|-----------|-----------|----------|--------|---------|---------------------------------------|----------|
| | | Budget | Actual | Variance | Variance | Budget | Actual | Variance | Variance |
| | | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | % | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | % |
| | Income | (1,123) | (1,123) | 0 | 0% | (252) | (252) | 0 | 0% |
| | Salaries | 43,870 | 43,107 | 763 | -2% | 4,929 | 4,657 | 273 | -6% |
| NORTH REGION | Supplies | 2,890 | 3,021 | (131) | 5% | 319 | 411 | (93) | 29% |
| | Sav Target | (225) | 0 | (225) | | (44) | 0 | (44) | |
| | Sav Realised | 94 | 0 | 94 | | 8 | 0 | 8 | |
| | | | | 501 | | | | 144 | |
| | Income | (1,594) | (1,594) | 0 | 0% | (158) | (158) | 0 | 0% |
| | Salaries | 70,224 | 67,645 | 2,579 | -4% | 7,726 | 7,433 | 293 | -4% |
| EAST REGION | Supplies | 4,570 | 4,767 | (197) | 4% | 525 | 624 | (99) | 19% |
| | Sav Target | (566) | 0 | (566) | | (111) | 0 | (111) | |
| | Sav Realised | 551 | 0 | 551 | | 14 | 0 | 14 | |
| | | | | 2,367 | | | | 98 | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | Income | (3,510) | (3,510) | 0 | 0% | (428) | (428) | 0 | 0% |
| | Salaries | 95,299 | 93,273 | 2,026 | -2% | 10,483 | 10,222 | 260 | -2% |
| WEST REGION | Supplies | 5,999 | 6,735 | (736) | 12% | 641 | 801 | (160) | 25% |
| | Sav Target | (757) | 0 | (757) | | (148) | 0 | (148) | |
| | Sav Realised | 361 | 0 | 361 | | 15 | 0 | 15 | |
| | | | l | 894 | | | | (33) | |
| | Income | (1,178) | (1,219) | 41 | 3% | (121) | (160) | 39 | 32% |
| | Salaries | 43,970 | 44,352 | (382) | 1% | 4,909 | 5,017 | (108) | 2% |
| NATIONAL OPS | Supplies | 15,808 | 15,494 | 314 | -2% | 1,720 | 1,759 | (39) | 2% |
| | Sav Target | (912) | 0 | (912) | 270 | (178) | 0 | (178) | 270 |
| | SavRealised | 117 | 0 | 117 | | (36) | 0 | (36) | |
| | | | | (822) | | () | - | (323) |] |
| | | | ľ | · · · · | | | | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | |
| | Salaries | 855 | 816 | 39 | -5% | 95 | 89 | 6 | -6% |
| BUSINESS | Supplies | 55 | 14 | 42 | -76% | 6 | 0 | 7 | -117% |
| INTELLIGENCE | Sav Target | (31) | 0 | (31) | | (6) | 0 | (6) | |
| | Sav Realised | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| | | | | 50 | | | | 7 | |
| | Income | (7,405) | (7,446) | 41 | 1% | (959) | (998) | 39 | 4% |
| | Salaries | 254,218 | 249,193 | 5,025 | -2% | 28,142 | 27,418 | 724 | -3% |
| TOTAL SERVICE DELIVERY | Supplies | 29,322 | 30,031 | (709) | 2% | 3,211 | 3,595 | (384) | 12% |
| DELIVERT | Sav Target | (2,491) | 0 | (2,491) | | (487) | 0 | (487) | |
| | SavRealised | 1,123 | 0 | 1,123 | | 1 | 0 | 1 | |
| | | | | 2,989 | | | | (107) | |

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Table 4 – Support Services Directorates

Support services are being reported as £3.86 million over budget. The main driver of this is the Finance, Logistics and Strategy savings targets, which includes all Best Value Programme targets, which are behind target by £1.4 million.

| | YEAR TO 31 DEC 2024 | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---------------------|---------|-----------|-----------|----------|---------|---------|----------|----------|
| | | | Cumulativ | e to Date | | | Current | t Period | |
| | | Budget | Actual | Variance | Variance | Budget | Actual | Variance | Variance |
| | | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | % | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | % |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | Income | (88) | (88) | 0 | 0% | (1) | (1) | 0 | |
| BOARD AND | Salaries | 1,854 | 1,846 | 8 | 0% | 217 | 207 | 10 | -5% |
| CHIEF | Supplies | 93 | 110 | (17) | 18% | 10 | 11 | (1) | 10% |
| EXECUTIVE | Sav Target | (42) | 0 | (42) | | (8) | 0 | (8) | |
| | Sav Realised | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| | | | | (51) | | | | 1 | |
| | Income | (1,454) | (1,381) | (73) | -5% | (156) | (105) | (51) | -33% |
| | Salaries | 13,664 | 14,256 | (592) | 4% | 1,618 | 1,718 | (100) | 6% |
| FINANCE AND | Supplies | 38,932 | 40,157 | (1,225) | 3% | 4,023 | 4,168 | (145) | 4% |
| LOGISTICS | Sav Target | (6,465) | | (6,465) | | (1,265) | 0 | (1,265) | |
| | Sav Realised | 6,599 | | 6,599 | | 2,436 | 0 | 2,436 | |
| | Reserves | (1,713) | | (1,713) | | (141) | 0 | (141) | |
| | | | | (3,469) | | | | 734 | |
| | Income | (23) | (21) | (2) | -9% | (3) | (2) | (1) | |
| HUMAN | Salaries | 2,253 | 2,209 | 44 | -2% | 244 | 258 | (14) | 6% |
| RESOURCES | Supplies | 627 | 614 | 13 | -2% | 74 | 65 | 9 | -12% |
| | Sav Target | (85) | 0 | (85) | | (17) | 0 | (17) | |
| | Sav Realised | 33 | 0 | 33 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| | | | | 3 | | · | | (23) | |
| | Income | (219) | (219) | 0 | 0% | (24) | (25) | 1 | |
| | Salaries | 3,358 | 3,366 | (8) | 0% | 378 | 383 | (5) | 1% |
| MEDICAL | Supplies | 797 | 826 | (29) | 4% | 103 | 87 | 16 | -16% |
| | Sav Target | (55) | 0 | (55) | | (11) | 0 | (11) | |
| | Sav Realised | 58 | 0 | 58 | | 4 | 0 | 4 | |
| | | | | (34) | | | | 5 | |
| | Income | (58) | (57) | (1) | -2% | (16) | (16) | 0 | |
| CARE QUALITY | Salaries | 4,977 | 5,184 | (207) | 4% | 548 | 576 | (29) | 5% |
| | Supplies | 565 | 631 | (66) | 12% | 154 | 132 | 21 | -14% |
| DEVELOPMENT | Sav Target | (66) | 0 | (66) | | (13) | 0 | (13) | |
| | Sav Realised | 34 | 0 | 34 | | 1 | 0 | 1 | |
| | | · | | (306) | | · | | (20) | |
| | Income | (1,842) | (1,766) | (76) | -4% | (200) | (149) | (51) | -26% |
| TOTAL | Salaries | 26,106 | 26,861 | (755) | 3% | 3,005 | 3,142 | (137) | 5% |
| SUPPORT | Supplies | 41,014 | 42,338 | (1,324) | 3% | 4,364 | 4,463 | (99) | 2% |
| SERVICES | Sav Target | (6,713) | 0 | (6,713) | | (1,314) | 0 | (1,314) | |
| | Sav Realised | 6,724 | 0 | 6,724 | | 2,441 | 0 | 2,441 | |
| | Reserves | (1,713) | 0 | (1,713) | | (141) | 0 | (141) | |
| | | | | (3,857) | | | | 699 | |

SCOTTISH AMBULANCE SERVICE BOARD INCOME AND EXPENDITURE BY DIRECTORATE YEAR TO 31 DEC 2024

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Table 5 – Detailed Income Analysis

Details of the financial performance analysed into specific income and funding sources are noted in the table below. This includes scrutiny of the key movements and pressure areas.

SCOTTISH AMBULANCE SERVICE BOARD INCOME INCLUDING ALLOCATIONS YEAR TO 31 DEC 2024

| | Year to Date | | | | |
|-----------|--------------|--------|----------|--|--|
| Full Year | | | | | |
| Budget | Budget | Actual | Variance | | |
| £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | | |

Income

| Revenue Allocation | 462,728 | | | |
|------------------------------|---------|-------|-------|------|
| Baseline Allocations | 438,066 | | | |
| Recurring Allocations | 590 | | | |
| Non-Recurring Allocations | 24,072 | | | |
| | | | | |
| Fleet Income | 22 | 22 | 22 | 0 |
| Health Board | 7,348 | 6,079 | 6,079 | 0 |
| Other Healthcare | 658 | 474 | 471 | (3) |
| Other Operating | 2,745 | 2,562 | 2,537 | (25) |
| Staff Car Deductions | 155 | 109 | 103 | (6) |
| Total Income | 473,656 | 9,246 | 9,212 | (35) |

Total income (including funding) to date is breakeven against budget.

The original financial plan assumed revenue funding allocations of £423 million. The above reflects funding for Mobile Vaccination Units, £5.0 million additional pressures, £6.8 million for AfC Reform funding and £9.0 million for ongoing COVID/System pressures. Recurring funding for AfC, ESM and Consultant Pay awards are reflected here. Adjustments are made on a monthly basis to the budget to include any additional allocations as these are notified to the Boards from Scottish Government and other NHS Boards.

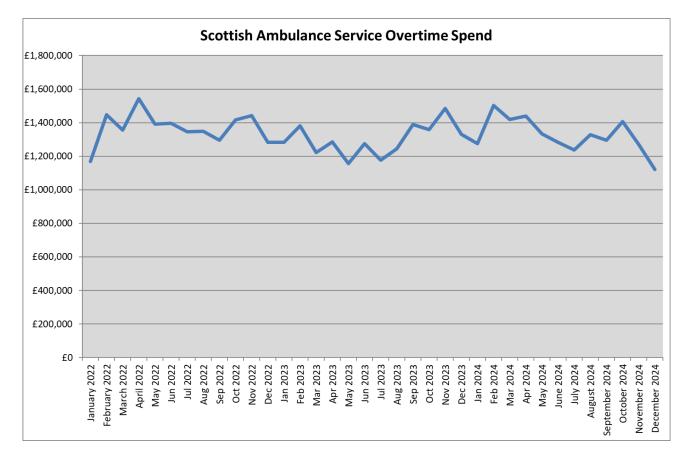
Detailed Pay analysis

The pay underspend of £4.27 million is driven primarily from Basic Pay underspend of £7.17 million, offset by Overtime cost overspend of £3.43 million. The main driver of this being an underlying lower than budgeted for skill mix plus vacancies, along with RWW pressures of £2.02 million and COVID/System pressures of £6.04 million now being funded. A workforce dashboard is currently being developed to provide supporting data behind the basic pay underspend – this will be rolled out in due course. However, it should be noted that this is offset by, as previously reported, Overtime as a result of HTAT pressures, shift cover, abstractions and Sickness.

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As referenced previously, reducing overtime is one of the areas contributing towards achieving the £12.0 million savings. Overtime costs in this current year is averaging 5.0% of the pay bill for the 9 months compared to 5.9% for the same period last year, reflecting a reduction in hours. The cost also reflecting the pay award for 2024/25.

The graph below shows a trend analysis of overtime costs in the last three years. The impact of COVID on the Service can be seen in the early months of 2022 and with peaks during 2023 and 2024 reflecting the ongoing pressures on the Service in response to the increased hospital turnaround times.



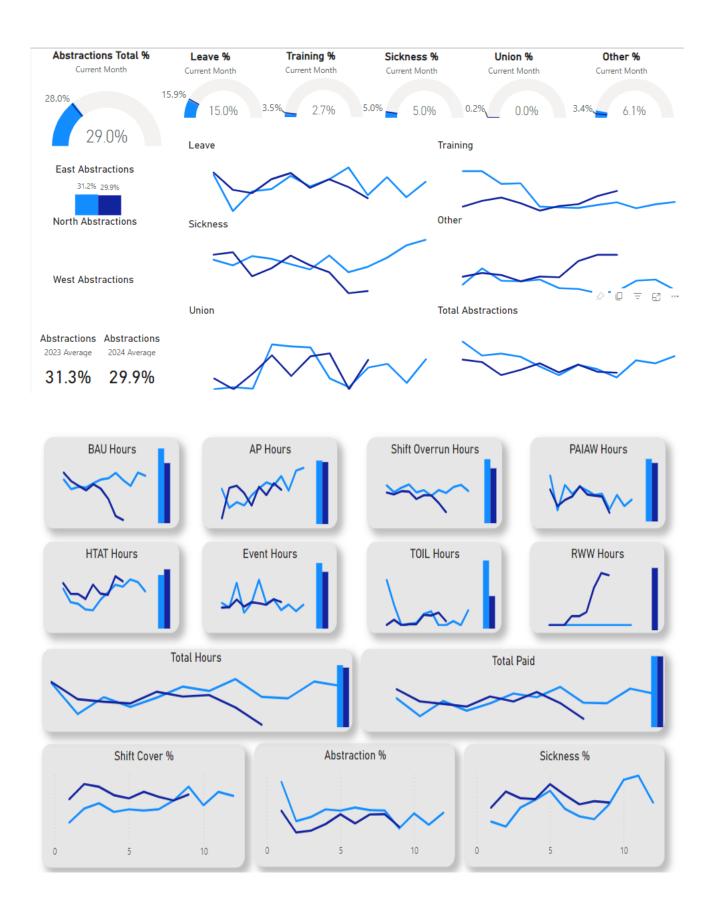
The high level reports below show the monthly trend year on year comparison for the whole service, which breaks down the OT hours into the different drivers., plus shift cover %, abstraction % and sickness %.

These reports are available on the newly developed Overtime Dashboard that is being used by budget holders.

This high-level data shows the trends for Total OT hours, shift cover, abstractions, hours not filled, BAU OT and vacancies. From this data we can see that from a YTD position:

- the OT hours paid are 3.9% lower than the same period last year.
- Shift cover monthly average has increased by 2.8%,
- Abstractions YTD average has decreased by 1.6%

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Hospital turnaround times (HTAT) continue to create a cost pressure post COVID and are being picked up within the legacy COVID costs with now associated funding.

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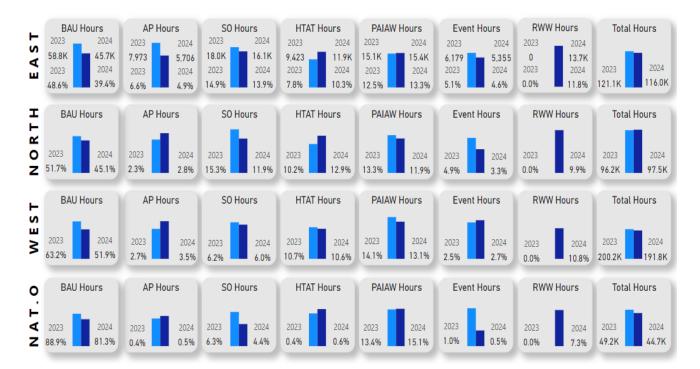
The charts below show at a glance, for each region, all factors driving the OT pressure, such as Shift overruns (SO), PAIAW. Abstraction OT also covers Maternity relief, sickness and Training delivery

The graphs below show the year on year percentages for each of the regional divisions,

In addition a snapshot of the summary dashboard summarises the key factors driving the overtime costs

- shift cover increase
- abstractions and
- sickness absence.

Noting that the additional controls put in place are having an impact through the BAU hours reduction. Given the fragility of this, and coming into the winter months, the scrutiny on the improved controls will continue.



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| | Cover % | Abstra Av | | | ess % rage 〒 63 … |
|----------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Period Paid | OT Hours | OT Paid | %Shift Cover | %Abstractions | %Sickness |
| 2024M4 | 49,252 | ± 1,434,183 | 95.3% | 32.5% | 8.9% |
| 2024M5 | 53,593 | £1,562,919 | 94.6% | 34.0% | 9.5% |
| 2024M6 | 51,835 | £1,499,952 | 96.0% | 32.6% | 9.1% |
| 2024M7 | 52,363 | £1,621,352 | 94.9% | 33.9% | 8.6% |
| 2024M8 | 47,801 | £1,479,066 | 94.1% | 34.0% | 8.8% |
| 2024M9 | 41,346 | £1,275,446 | 95.4% | 32.1% | 8.7% |
| Total | 1,091,1 | £31,787,400 | 94.2% | 33.7% | 8.8% |

Given the scrutiny on this, a weekly operational overtime meeting with the Regional leads to agree common approaches, share best practice, agree variations and reduce unfunded shifts, has been put in place. This group reports to the weekly executive oversight meetings.

Current actions being progressed by these working groups include

- Shift cover scenario modelling with guidance being developed
- Absence line implementation
- Sickness absence deep dive
- Management and workforce planning guidance for the updated overtime policy
- A detailed absence management action plan that incorporates a range of best practice ideas from other public bodies

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Table 6

SCOTTISH AMBULANCE SERVICE BOARD STAFF AND OVERTIME SUMMARY YEAR TO 31 DEC 2024

| | | East Region | North Region | West Region | National Ops | Service Delivery |
|-----------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| | Average WTE | 1,396 | 829 | 1,932 | 878 | 5,035 |
| Current Year | Overtime Hours | 98,284 | 83,527 | 165,592 | 42,241 | 389,644 |
| | Overtime Cost (£'000) | 3,369 | 2,859 | 5,538 | 1,540 | 13,306 |

| | | Average WTE | 1,425 | 832 | 1,965 | 858 | 5,080 |
|---|------------|-----------------------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|
| F | Prior Year | Overtime Hours | 100,985 | 81,227 | 171,596 | 48,055 | 401,863 |
| | | Overtime Cost (£'000) | 3,298 | 2,715 | 5,643 | 1,631 | 13,287 |

| | Average WTE | (29) | (3) | (33) | 20 | (45) |
|----------|-----------------------|---------|-------|---------|---------|----------|
| Variance | Overtime Hours | (2,701) | 2,300 | (6,004) | (5,814) | (12,219) |
| | Overtime Cost (£'000) | 71 | 144 | (105) | (91) | 19 |
| | | | | | | |

The above table also illustrates an overall decrease in overtime hours compared to the equivalent prior year period.

Non-pay

The non-pay overspend at \pounds 2.03 million which includes costs of asset disposal pressure of \pounds 0.14 million, is in addition to the known costs pressures beyond the \pounds 9.55 million of anticipated pressures and budget allocated.

Areas of known cost pressures include Air Ambulance £0.27 million, Comms, Computer Maintenance & Purchases £0.37 million, Medical Costs £0.19 million, Other Operational costs £0.35 million and Property Running costs £0.88 million.

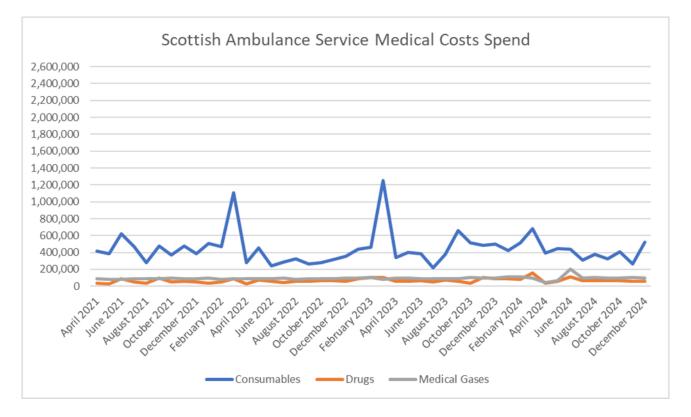
Other points to note are:

• Air Ambulance Costs have reported a 1.35% increase YTD (3.7% increase YTD to M8) in the number of GAMA air ambulance missions in these 9 months from the same period last year, up from the reduction reported for the first five months yearly comparison, and as we go into the winter months, this may continue, but December saw a reduction in the GAMA missions, hence the lower YTD % . Although

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importantly, there has also been a continuing reduction in the chargeable MACA missions from last year, 42 missions YTD (33 reported from last month), there is however a pressure because of inflationary uplifts in the hourly rates charged by MCA. 72.3% of the chargeable MCA missions occurred because of weather conditions and/or bariatric patients.

- Computer Maintenance costs are being driven by higher than anticipated increase in O365 and Terrafix– further information will be provided in future months as we look at the detail behind these pressures.
- Medical costs. Despite a budget increase, there remains an overspend of £0.185 million in the 9 months of this financial year, with December seeing an uplift of 22% in average spend from previous month's trend. Medical gases are contributing £0.25 million to this overspend increase, there is a specific programme of work on medical gases taking place during 2024/25 to reduce these costs.
- Other operational costs reflect stock issue items, coded via national PECOS, which should be against Medical costs, a total of £0.331 million unfunded.
- Property running costs overspend is mainly driven by Heat, Light and power pressures of £0.5 million, which includes the new use of EV chargers – discussions are ongoing on how this is managed going forward. Cleaning and building maintenance contribute to the rest of the overspend – again, reviews are underway to assess the ongoing impact.



We are starting to see the expenditure associated with Winter pressure period coming through, reflected in the uplift in Medical costs as well as purchases of general supplies for frontline staff.

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Efficiency Savings

As described within the financial plan, the savings target for 2024/25 is £12.0 million. The financial plan assumes the delivery of the 3% efficiency savings target and recognises that if COVID/system pressures cannot be mitigated or funded then the Service may need to deliver a > than 3% target. This would be extremely challenging, if not impossible, without impacting on patient care.

Focus is also on the 15 box grid which sets out 15 areas for Boards to progress, with national programmes of work supporting these areas to be implemented at a local level. Details of our progress against these are being reviewed by the weekly executive meeting. These areas have also been incorporated within the Best Value Programme.

The finance plan reports that the £12 million efficiency target will be delivered through the Back to Balance action plan. Up to month 9, Savings achieved are £1.35 million behind the Month 9 target of £9.2 million with savings of £7.85 million achieved to date. These are made up of £2.51 million within local efficiencies and £5.34 million within BV schemes.

To date a total full year savings of £8.5 million have been recognised, which will be realised over the course of the financial year. Progress on achieved savings continues and significant scrutiny and review is in place with all budget holders.

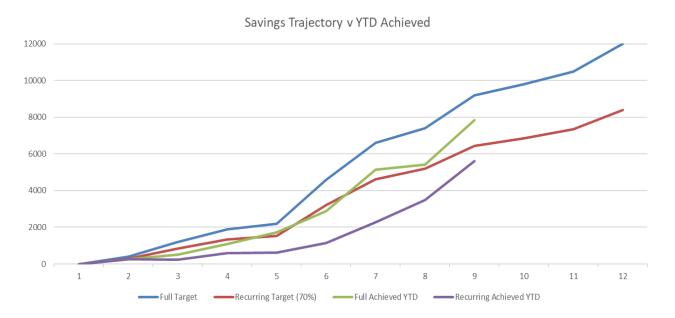
A detailed tracking of efficiency savings plans and delivery is presented to the Best Value Steering Group, the Performance and Planning Steering Group and the Audit and Risk Committee.

Given the slower than anticipated performance to date a detailed revised trajectory had been completed that informs the revised forecast, this had reduced the £12 million target to a likely scenario of £8.8 million however the aim is to deliver the £12 million efficiency target recognising that some of these plans may be non recurring.

The following schedule tracks each of these schemes and how each is progressing to date:

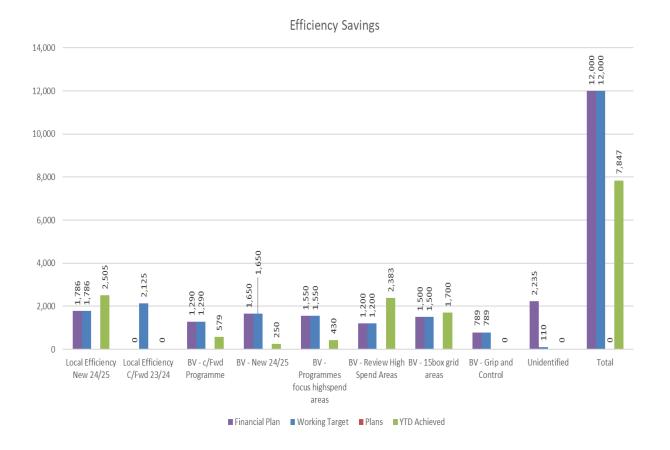
The chart below shows the revised savings trajectory over the financial year, which accommodates a more consistent pace as the year progresses.

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Recognising this challenge the delivery of our financial targets is also highlighted as a very high risk in our corporate risk register and is monitored in line with this risk profile.

Up to month 9, savings of £7.85 million has been achieved to date, with £2.51 million within local efficiencies and £5.34 million within BV schemes, as detailed in the graph below. To date a total full year savings of £8.5 million have been recognised, which will be realised over the remainder of the financial year.



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The full year forecast described in the paper now assumes full delivery of the efficiency savings target, albeit it is recognised this will be supported by a likely higher element of non-recurring savings in year.

Progress against the likely forecast at month 9 is as detailed in the table below

Table 7

| Efficiency Savings | Financial | | Updated | Forecast at Month 9 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Schemes | Plan £m | 2024/25 Likely Forecast | FY Efficiencies Delivered | Actions update |
| | | £m | £m | |
| Local Efficiency Schemes | 4.0 | 3.1 | 2.73 | Budget holders are working through local expenditure plans to identify all other efficiency gains including productivity and cost avoidance |
| Best Value Programmes- Overtime Reduction | 3.5 | 3.0 | 4.03 | Up until month 6 there is very detailed scrutiny of all overtime shifts and regions are undertaking risk assessments for each shift. This has resulted in a number of shifts being managed more effectively which. currently this work is being masked by the increase in shift cover to meet demand pressures. In stripping out these pressures we can demonstrate a positive impact of the increased scrutiny and this has been recognised in the month 6 reporting and will be developed further over the next few months. |
| Best Value Programmes- ICT, PTS & Estates | 2.0 | 2.0 | 1.74 | The ICT savings have been realised. Contracts with 3rd party support to PTS has been withdrawn form on a decreasing scale over the year. Estates expenditure has been centralised and robust scrutiny of expenditure in line with our estates plans with trends to date reporting a reduction in spend from previous years |
| Best Value Programmes- Medicines & Equipment Unidentified | 0.9 | 0.3 | 0.0 | -Medical gases pilot is under way and an action plan is in place for other medicine/equipment redesigns |
| Unidentined | 1.6 | 0 | 0 | |

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| | 12.0 | 12.0 | 8.50 | funding. |
|---------------|------|------|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| efficiencies | | 3.0 | | An ongoing detailed review of our forecast expenditure is underway including an assessment of the agenda for change reform |
| Non-recurring | | 3.6 | | An engeing detailed review of ever |

Post COVID-19 Financial Implications

Members are aware of the funding risk to support expenditure due to post COVID-19 pandemic and system pressures. Our 2024/25 financial plan assumed a cost pressure of £9.0 million for ongoing COVID activity, and this was monitored on a monthly basis as a pressure. Although funding has now been allocated to support the ongoing costs, we will continue to report on them through the remainder of this financial year.

Included in the revised estimated full year pressures were:

- Overtime £4.2 million an ongoing pressure on ED in line with prior years relating to hospital turnaround times
- PPE £0.4 million maintenance of hoods still being used and face fit testing also being incurred
- 999 Call handlers £1.5 million additional wte requirement for Call handlers beyond 120 wte, plus costs in meeting the peaks and troughs of the staffing requirements for the 3 call centres due to rising demand.
- Card 46 (timed admissions) £2.9 million relating to unfunded posts, this also includes the provision of Taxis and British Red Cross resources to cover resources transferring patients to accident and emergency following the appropriate clinical risk assessment.

| £ million | Planning assumptions for 2024/25 | Month 9 Updated Planning assumption 2024/25 | Actual Month 9 2024/25 | Notes |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Overtime including 0.5% sickness | 4.200 | 3.150 | 2.835 | This is primarily driven by shift overruns relating to hospital turnaround times |
| PPE | 0.400 | 0.300 | 0.057 | These initial costs include portacount calibration. and FFP3 masks have been purchased. |
| 999 call handlers | 1.500 | 1.125 | 0.857 | This is in line with plan, with the increase in costs being planned for winter and is driven by increased demand |
| Card 46 (timed admissions) | 2.900 | 2.175 | 3.066 | This showed higher costs than anticipated with the inclusion of British Red Cross and use of taxis. This avoids A&E conveyance. |

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| Total Covid | 9.000 | 6.750 | 6.815 | Overall this is in line with plan, but specific actions in place to review and monitor these |
|----------------|-------|-------|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|----------------|-------|-------|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Mobile Vaccination Units

The Service is currently delivering Mobile Vaccination Units (MVUs) across Scotland to support an inclusive vaccination programme delivering vaccinations to population groups who can face barriers to mainstream vaccination pathways.

The year-to-date expenditure (at 31 December 2024) is as follows:

| | Costs |
|---------|----------|
| Pay | £465,000 |
| Non Pay | £133,000 |
| Total | £597,000 |

Funding of £1.1 million was assumed in our Finance Plan however the Scottish Government confirmed an allocation of £0.94 million in our Month 3 Allocation letter for 2024/25. Expenditure plans were reviewed against this funding level and we forecast to break-even.

Updated Full year Forecast

A full year financial forecast has been reviewed against the financial plan from quarter one and monitored thereafter. Best, Likely and Worst-case outturn scenarios have reported to this point against the 2024/25 financial plan.

From month 3, the likely position was a £17.5 million deficit, assuming £8.8 million of efficiency savings delivery against the £12.0 million 3% target.

Following receipt of the £9.0 million funding to support the COVID related system pressures, the reduced working week funding and a review of phasing, the current forecast has now been updated to a break even position. This is also working to the likely and best case scenario of the full £12.0 million efficiency savings target will be delivered, noting however there maybe a higher than anticipated non recurring impact. An update has been provided in table 7 within the efficiency savings update within this report.

| I able o | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|--|---------------|------------------|---------|--|
| Forecast Summary | | | inancial | Updated Forecast | | |
| | | | Plan | at month 3 | Current | |
| | | | £m | £m | £m | |
| Brought forward deficit | | | 8.00 | 8.00 | 8.00 | |
| Pressures – Pay | Pressures – Pay | | | 7.70 | 7.70 | |
| Emerging Pay Pressure – PTS recruitment | | | | 0.70 | 0.10 | |
| Pressures – Non pay & Operationa | Pressures – Non pay & Operational Commitments | | | 12.90 | 11.50 | |
| Baseline Funding Uplift | | | (7.00) | (7.00) | (7.00) | |
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Table 8

| Gap before Efficiencies | 21.35 | 22.30 | 20.30 |
|--------------------------------------------|---------|--------|------------|
| 3% Efficiency Savings | (12.00) | (8.80) | (12.00) |
| Covid and related system pressures | 9.00 | 9.00 | 9.00 |
| 24/25 Net Gap | 18.35 | 22.50 | 17.30 |
| Additional funding received | | (5.00) | (5.00) |
| Additional funding received – Covid/System | | | (9.00) |
| Pressures | | | |
| Afc Reform non-rec slippage | | | (1.80) |
| Additional non-rec slippage | | | (1.50) |
| 24/25 Outturn | 18.35 | 17.50 | Break even |

This will be closely monitored over the winter months and the non recurring benefit in-year will be included within the carry forward deficit position in the 2025/26 financial planning.

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2024/25 YTD CAPITAL POSITION AS AT MONTH 9 (31/12/2024)

2024/25 Capital Budget

The Service's is anticipating a full year capital budget of £28.413 million made up of the following elements:

| • | Formula Capital | £1.794 million |
|---|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| • | Earmarked Allocations | £25.754 million |
| • | Transport Scotland Switch on Fleet | £0.865 million |
| | Total Capital Funding | £28.413 million |

The Service is provided with formula capital to fund all capital projects that are not subject to approval by the SG Capital Investment Group (CIG) or has not received a separate earmarked allocation. This will primarily be utilised to fund Vehicle Accidents, ICT and Property projects during 2024/25. This allocation has been received.

The Service receives earmarked allocations for Business Cases that have been approved by the CIG. In 2024/25 the following earmarked allocations are anticipated:

- Fleet Replacement Programme £25.505 million
- Scotstar Equipment Replacement £0.250 million

In addition, the Service has been successful in applying for funding from Transport Scotland to fund electric vehicle infrastructure and £0.865 million is anticipated for 2024/25.

YTD Capital Position as at Month 9

The YTD capital position is shown in the table below. Year to date expenditure totals £8.209 million. Most capital expenditure occurs in Quarter 3 and 4 of the financial year

The unallocated budget excluding anticipated projects of £0.388 million is expected to be fully utilised during 2024/25.

On disposal of assets, the Service can receive a capital receipt which it can utilise as additional funding during the year. Year to date capital receipts total £0.483 million which has resulted from the disposal of vehicles.

It is anticipated that the Capital Budget will break-even at year-end.

| SCOTTISH AMBULANCE SER CAPITAL REPORT 2024-25 As at 31th December 2024 | VICE | | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|--|
| PROJECT | - | oproved udget | YTD Actuals £ | Notes | |
| Formula Capital Projects | | | | | |
| eHealth and ICT | | 264,998 | 96,733 | Vat Credits | |
| Property and Special Projects | | 538,811 | 60,021 | | |
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| Vehicle Accidents | 750,000 | 469,193 | |
|------------------------------|------------|-----------|----------------------------------------|
| | 1,553,809 | 625,946 | |
| Earmarked Allocations | | | |
| Scotstar | 250,000 | 0 | |
| Vehicles including Transport | | | |
| Scotland | 24,505,000 | 7,583,347 | |
| | 24,755,000 | 7,583,347 | |
| Unallocated Budget | 387,702 | | Coin on colo of |
| Capital Receipts | 483,314 | 0 | Gain on sale of vehicles & property |
| Fleet Contingency | 1,863,344 | | |
| TOTAL | 29,043,169 | 8,209,293 | |
| | 23,043,103 | 0,209,295 | |

Approved and Anticipated Projects

The following table shows details of all projects that have had a mini business case approved and funding allocated.

| SCOTTISH AMBULANCE SERVICE CAPITAL PLAN 2024-25 | |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------|
| As at 31th December 2024 | |
| ALLOCATION | |
| Received | |
| Core Allocation | 1,794,000 |
| Anticipated | |
| ScotSTAR project | 250,000 |
| Fleet Replacement - Core | 18,640,000 |
| Feet Replacement - Contingency | 1,864,000 |
| Fleet Replacement - Deferred from 2023/24 | 5,000,000 |
| Total Capital Allocation | 27,548,000 |
| Add: Transport Scotland Budget Transfer - | 865,000 |
| Add: Rev to Cap Budget Transfer - | 147,511 |
| Total Available Capital Budget | 28,560,511 |

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EXPENDITURE

Approved Projects

| Property | |
|------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Estates - Purchase of Maybole Land | 20,000 |
| Estates - Physical Condition Works | 384,300 |
| Total - Property | 404,300 |
| ІСТ | |
| ICT - SWAN2 | 217,523 |
| ICT - Avaya Border Controller | 20,228 |
| ICT - Corpuls Defib Data Server | 15,247 |
| ICT - C3 - User Status Dashboard | 12,000 |
| Total - ICT | 264,998 |
| Operations | |
| Vehicles plus Contingency & Transport Scotland | 26,369,000 |
| Vehicle Accidents | 469,193 |
| Scotstar - T1 Ventilator Replacement | 30,879 |
| CCRP - MFC Double Cell Decontamination Unit | 65,511 |
| Mobile Vaccination Units | 70,000 |
| Total - Operations | 27,004,583 |
| | 27,673,881 |
| Unallocated Budget | 886,630 |
| Anticipated Projects | |
| Scotstar Equipment | 219,121 |
| Vehicle Accidents | 280,807 |
| Total - Anticipated Projects | 499,928 |
| Revised Unallocated Budget | 386,702 |

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CONCLUSION

For the 9 months to December 2024, the Service reports a deficit of £0.87 million. This reflects a number of ongoing cost pressures and the delivery of the efficiency savings being behind schedule. However, we are seeing a catch up in our savings plan, as focus continues on cost containment and delivering identifying efficiency savings against the £12 million target. Work has also commenced on the 2025/26 financial planning position.

Julie Carter Director of Finance, Strategy and Logistics January 2025

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