



Marlyn Glen

Scottish Labour MSP for North East Scotland

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NHS Tayside told to find £35 million in "efficiency savings", says MSP

Marlyn Glen has been told by NHS Tayside Chair Sandy Watson that it would be "foolish to suggest" that "efficiencies will not be sought" in staffing budgets as the Board seeks to find £35 million over the next three years in "efficiency savings" on the instructions of the Scottish Government.

Ms. Glen had written to the health board following Finance Secretary John Swinney's announcement on "efficiency savings" in the public sector.

She asked what level of "efficiency savings" were being called for in NHS Tayside, and what impact these would have upon filling posts that became vacant and upon services to patients.

She said,

"The great concern about these 'savings' that the Scottish Government has ordered NHS Tayside to find, is that they do result in posts being frozen and impact upon the efficiency of frontline services for patients.

" The cumulative outcome of such savings result in an increased workload for staff who have to do more with less resources.

"Improvements can continue only where new investment is made."

In his reply, Mr. Watson stated that NHS Tayside were required to find £35 million efficiency savings in total in the next three years.

The level of "Efficient Government target" savings set for NHS Tayside was confirmed as :

2008-09 £11.32 million

2009-10 £11.69 million

2010-11 £12.06 million

Mr. Watson said,

“The Board accepts that it will present a significant challenge to continue to deliver the same scale of cost improvement which has been achieved in recent years.

“Clear targets have now been set within budgets for 2008-09, and these now require to be delivered by the respective budget holders.

“Consideration is at an early stage as to the means of delivering targets for later years.

“Given also that staffing budgets are such a significant element of our expenditure, it would be foolish to suggest that efficiencies will not be sought in this area.”

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WEBSITE LINKS

MARLYN GLEN www.marlynglen.org.uk