

Ministerial Decision Report



HEALTH & COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT- NON-ELIGIBLE TARIFF UPLIFT 2024 EFFECTIVE 19TH FEBRUARY 2024

1. Purpose of Report

To request the Minister to approve increases in the Health & Community Services Non-Eligible Patient Tariff, proposed to be effective from 19th February 2024, and to agree to the corresponding use of additional income in 2024.

2. Background

The Health and Community Services (HCS) Non-Eligibility Tariff ("the Tariff") relates to charges for the use of HCS services by non-eligible patients. Following the approval of the Health & Social Services Minister, this decision seeks approval from the Treasurer to approve the recommendation uplifting the tariff by an average of 6.6% from 19th February 2024. The Tariff is based on the NHS Payment by Results Tariff. HCS adopts the latest tariff published annually by the Department of Health. This increase reflects two years of increases as the HCS tariff was last revised in 2021.

The specialties that are not included in the HRG schedule 2022/2023 tariff will be set at a 6.6% increase.

3. Recommendation

The Minister is recommended to accept an average 6.6% increase in the Tariff as shown in the accompanying schedule to take effect from 19th February 2024 and a 6.6% increase for those not included in the HRG schedule.

4. Reason for Decision

The 2024 Tariff reflects an increase in excess of 2.5% across a range of tariffs for 2024 and requires approval by the Health & Social Services Minister and the Treasury & Resources Minister under the provisions of the Public Finances Manual.

The States in adopting the Anti-Inflation Strategy agreed that increases in States charges should be limited to a maximum of 2.5 % a year, with any exceptions, in extremely compelling cases only, to be subject to prior approval by the Finance and Economics Committee (now the Minister for Treasury and Resources). Under Delegation 2.1, authority for agreeing non-contentious charge increases above 2.5% may be delegated to the Treasurer of the States, or in their absence, another person as nominated by the Treasurer. The Treasurer of the States is able to give "blanket" approval to groups of charges in a particular year, or a single charge over a period of a number of years.

Furthermore, Article 21 of the Public Finances (Jersey) Law relates to the power to allocate excess income. It states;

(1) This Article applies if –

(a) an approved government plan includes, under Article 9(8), the estimated income that will be earned by, or be attributable to, a States body or by an area of operation of a States body during the first financial year covered by the plan; and

(b) income in excess of that estimate is earned by, or attributable to, the States body or area of operation during that financial year.

(2) Despite the approved government plan, the Minister may direct that the excess income referred to in paragraph (1) (b) be allocated to a head of expenditure set out in the plan.

(3) The amount subject to the Minister's direction may be withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund and spent on that head of expenditure in the first financial year covered by the approved government plan, as if the amount had been appropriated for that head of expenditure.

Delegation 1.1 states:

Treasurer of the States, or in their absence, another person as nominated by the Treasurer (excluding the PAO), to approve additional income in excess of increased expenditure (i.e. additional surplus income) required to generate that income but the excess income is more than 10% (up to a maximum of £500,000 for a States trading operation and £100,000 for all other States funded bodies) of the estimated income notified to the States for that particular service area – this additional income should not be used to fund recurring expenditure for which no future funding is secured.

5. Resource Implications

Any additional income as a result of these increases will be offset by the staff and non-staff costs of providing these services to the non-eligible. It is estimated that this increase will generate £8,000 per annum for HCS.