

S2W-3244 - Wendy Alexander (Paisley North) (Lab) (Date Lodged Wednesday, October 08, 2003): To ask the Scottish Executive what its policy is on use of, or referral to, complementary and alternative medicine practitioners by GPs.

Answered by Malcolm Chisholm (Monday, November 03, 2003): The Executive believes that Complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) may offer relief to some people suffering from a wide variety of conditions. A GP may refer a patient for CAM if, in his or her clinical judgement, it is appropriate. The GP remains responsible for the patient's medical care. NHS boards may provide CAM from the unified budgets made available to them by the Executive, based on their assessments of local needs.