

S2W-7650 - Mary Scanlon (Highlands and Islands) (Con) (Date Lodged Wednesday, April 21, 2004):

To ask the Scottish Executive what support is being given to complementary medicine.

Answered by Malcolm Chisholm (Wednesday, May 05, 2004): It is open to NHS boards to provide complementary medicine through the NHS in Scotland. Decisions on whether to provide any particular form of complementary medicine are for NHS boards to make, based on their assessment of local needs. Information on the level of provision is not held centrally.

NHS boards will be helped in their decisions on funding complementary medicine by reliable standards of regulation for complementary practitioners. The Executive, with the UK Government and the other devolved administrations, is currently taking part in a UK-wide consultation on the statutory regulation of people who practise acupuncture and herbal medicine.