

Private NHS spending almost £600 million under SNP

Almost £600 million has been spent on private agency staff under the SNP, it was revealed today.

Figures show spending on clinical and non-clinical agency staff has soared from £82million in 2011/12 to a staggering £175million in 2015/16 – an increase of 113 per cent.

A new analysis by Scottish Labour reveals the total spend since 2011/12 is £597million.

These figures show the extent of the SNP's mismanagement of our NHS, leaving staff under-valued and under-resourced.

At the same time as refusing to give our NHS staff a pay rise, Nicola Sturgeon is forking out hundreds of millions of pounds to private companies because of her failure to workforce plan.

It makes a mockery of SNP claims to protect our valued NHS and is simply not good enough – staff and patients deserve better.

Nicola Sturgeon and her ministers need to get back to the day job of fixing the mess they have made of our health service.

Scottish Labour is establishing a workforce commission to address the SNP's staffing crisis in our NHS.

And we would abolish the public sector pay cap, giving our NHS staff the pay rise they deserve.

A Labour government would also massively increase the money available to be spent in our NHS by ensuring those at the top pay their fair share in tax. Only Labour can create a country that works for the many, not the few.