

New figures reveal thousands of beds lost in Scotland's NHS

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Hospitals across Scotland have lost more than 8000 beds since 2003, official statistics have revealed.

According to the Scottish Government, there are now 21,028 non-intensive care beds across the country.

That compares to 29,445 beds 13 years ago, a reduction of almost 30 per cent.

The Scottish Conservatives said while there was a shift in the way people are treated, with many being cared for in non-hospital settings, the drop was still "hugely significant".

The figures were released following a parliamentary question by Scottish Conservative MSP Miles Briggs.

They also revealed the number of intensive care beds have increased, from 700 in 2003 to more than 900 now.

The decrease in non-intensive care beds has hit health boards across the country.

In NHS Lothian there were reductions at St John's Hospital in Livingston (503 to 432), while Ninewells Hospital in Dundee (854 to 800) and Aberdeen Royal Infirmary (870 to 682) also experienced bed cuts.

Since the SNP came to power and assumed full control of the health brief in 2007, the number of overall non-intensive beds have gone from 26,367 to 21,028, a drop of a fifth.

Scottish Conservative public health spokesman Miles Briggs said:

"We know the way people are being treated is changing, with more receiving the care they need outwith hospital settings.

"However, the SNP cannot just hide behind that argument when bed numbers have dropped by nearly a third since 2003. That's hugely significant.

"The population is increasing and ageing, and the pressure on the NHS is like never before.

“That’s why the Scottish Government has to get the balance right, and simply slashing the number of beds without thinking of the consequences is not the way to do it.

“This is more evidence of an SNP distracted by its obsession with breaking up Britain, neglecting our precious NHS in the process.”

Below is the number of non-intensive care beds by year in Scotland:

2003	–	29,445
2004	–	28,481
2005	–	27,741
2006	–	27,018
2007	–	26,367
2008	–	25,804
2009	–	25,083
2010	–	24,116
2011	–	23,290
2012	–	22,786
2013	–	22,521
2014	–	22,220
2015	–	21,560
2016	–	21,028

To see a full breakdown of the number of beds lost since 2003, visit:

<http://www.scottishconservatives.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Hospital-Beds.xlsx>

We know what the Scottish Tories are against – but what are they for?

Now more than ever, it is vital that Scotland has strong voices standing up for Scotland in Westminster – but no matter what the occasion, the only thing the one-trick Tory party can talk about is independence.

Labour says the Tories have held back

Britain long enough



Labour's

Campaign Coordinators Andrew Gwynne and Ian Lavery will today unveil a campaign poster highlighting how Britain has been held back by the Conservatives.

Ian Lavery will say:

"Millions of people feel they are living in a country where they are held back from fulfilling their potential.

"They don't feel secure in their jobs and they can't remember the last time they had a pay rise. Their children are struggling to learn in crowded classrooms, and their hearts sink when they see what it costs to rent or buy a home.

"Many who have saved and planned for their retirement find they have to work longer because the state pension age is running away from them.

"The Tories have given tax breaks to the richest and big business, while failing to invest in services, skills, infrastructure and the new industries of the future.

"If the Tories are re-elected, things will only get worse. You can't trust the Tories with your future or with the NHS, your child's future or your pension.

"The Conservatives have held back Britain for too long. Labour will build a fairer Britain for the many not the few. We can do it together. Don't let them hold you back."

News story: BRITISH & IRISH LIONS TOUR 2017 – TRAVEL ADVICE

The British & Irish Lions are touring New Zealand from 3 June to 8 July. The Tour is expected to attract up to 30,000 travelling fans. If you're one of them, please read the following advice and check out our [travel advice for New Zealand](#).

Passports

Your passport should be valid for a minimum period of one month from the date of exit from New Zealand.

If you lose your passport, or it's stolen, you will need to get an Emergency Travel Document from the [nearest British Consulate](#).

Visas

British passport holders can enter New Zealand as a visitor for up to 6 months on arrival without a visa, provided you can satisfy an Immigration Officer that you meet the requirements of the immigration rules. Visitors must have an onward ticket.

If you're transiting another country en route to or from New Zealand, make sure you [check the entry requirements](#) for that country. New Zealand's immigration rules are strict, particularly regarding employment. Anyone wishing to work will need a visa allowing employment.

For more information about visas, visit the [New Zealand Immigration](#) website or contact the nearest [New Zealand High Commission](#).

Travel Insurance

Take out comprehensive travel and medical [insurance](#) before you travel.

At the matches

Match venues will be enforcing their standard conditions of entry. Generally speaking, prohibited items include: alcohol; drugs; glass bottles or breakable containers; metal containers, cans; offensive weapons, including potential missiles; flags over 1m x 1m in size; and professional camera/video/ audio equipment.

All match venues reserve the right to refuse entry to anyone who is intoxicated and/or disorderly. Licensing laws are strictly enforced: even being mildly intoxicated can lead to being refused entry.

Crime

The level of crime is no higher than in the UK. Be careful with personal possessions and travel documents in cities and other popular tourist destinations. Avoid carrying everything in one bag; only carry what you need; and leave spare cash and valuables in hotel safety deposit boxes. Don't leave bags unattended in vehicles, internet cafes, pubs or clubs.

Driving

See the extensive advice available on the following websites, [NZ Police](#), [NZ AA](#), and [Freedom Camping](#).

- do recognise that NZ roads are different; outside of the main cities, there are very few motorways; if you're travelling a long distance your average speed will be 80 kmh, not 100 kmh, (even on State Highway 1 due to hills, weather and all the little towns where there are no by-passes);
- don't travel in convoys of camper vans; if you're travelling slower than the local traffic it is convention in New Zealand to pull over to the left often to allow faster traffic to pass you;
- don't rely exclusively on GPS to select routes, it may direct you to roads that aren't suitable for your vehicle; talk to locals (at service stations perhaps) and take their advice

Emergency services numbers

The number for the emergency services in New Zealand is: 111.

Further information

[British & Irish Lions website](#)

[NZ Police Website](#)

Like [UK in New Zealand](#) on Facebook, and follow [@ukinnz](#) and the [LIONS APP](#) on Twitter

[News story: Love for Lydia report published](#)

MAIB's report into the carbon monoxide poisoning on board the motor cruiser Love for Lydia on Wroxham Broad, England between 7 and 9 June 2016 resulting in two fatalities is now published.

MAIB statement:

The Marine Accident Investigation Branch has investigated four accidents in four years where seven people have tragically died as a result of carbon monoxide poisoning on boats.

Carbon monoxide is a silent killer and there are many sources of it on boats, including engines, cookers, heaters and even barbecues.

Today, we have made safety recommendations to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, British Marine and the Boat Safety Scheme to increase awareness of the dangers and promote the fitting of carbon monoxide alarms.

For boaters, the message is clear: fit an alarm.

The report contains details of what happened, subsequent actions taken, and recommendations made.

Press enquiries

Press enquiries during office hours 01932 440015

Press enquiries out of hours 020 7944 4292