

Announcement of methodological changes to *Investment in General Practice, England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland 2008/09 to 2012/13*

This document announces changes to the methodology used to produce the Investment in General Practice report.

The report has previously included a category of 'dispensing' to reflect the amount of money spent in each country on dispensing activity within GP practices.

This category has been reviewed to ensure consistency of reporting between countries. This has meant using alternative data sources to those previously used and a new separation into the cost of dispensing fees and spend on drugs dispensed by dispensing doctors.

This change has been implemented for all years shown in the report (2008/09-2012/13).

This means that some figures in the detailed breakdown of financial monitoring have been revised for previous years. The Total Spend category has also been revised for all countries, and consequently for the UK total.

The impact of this change varies by year and by country. For example for England in 2011/12 the change represents a negligible proportion of total spend ($2 \times 10^{-5}\%$); for Scotland in 2011/12 the change represents 6% of total spend.

These changes have been agreed through the Technical Steering Committee, which has representation from UK Health Departments, NHS England, the British Medical Association, NHS Employers, the Secretariat for the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs: Knowledge, Analysis and Intelligence Division