

approximately 1 in 200 in England which were dispensed by community pharmacists.

2. The population data has been extracted from OPCS estimates.

Mr. Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to reach conclusions about the costs and benefits of long-term hormone replacement therapy.

Mrs. Virginia Bottomley: The Department is funding a research project by Professor Martin Vessey of Oxford university, who is examining the costs and benefits of hormone replacement therapy in relation to the menopause. Professor Vessey's study is expected to be completed in early 1992.

Life Insurance

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government has taken since the publication in November 1989 of its response to the seventh report of the Select Committee on Social Services, Session 1988-89, to consider with the insurance industry the effect of asking proposers for life insurance whether they have ever had an HIV test.

Mrs. Virginia Bottomley: Since we published our response to the Select Committee report, officials have had a number of meetings with representatives of the Association of British Insurers (ABI) to discuss the effect of HIV test questions on proposal forms for life insurance. I met Michael Pickard, the chairman of the Life Insurance Council of the ABI and his colleagues on 12 November. We discussed the possible effects of the ABI's recommended procedures and the need to ensure that people were not dissuaded from coming forward for testing, help and advice about HIV infection. We have, jointly with the ABI, commissioned the British Market Research Bureau (BMRB) to carry out a survey of public perceptions of the effect of the questions. The BMRB is currently in the process of interviewing experts, advice workers, the general public and young adults. We expect to receive the results early in the new year, when further meetings with the ABI are planned.

Advertising

Mr. Fisher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he will publish a table showing the amount spent in each of the last five years by his Department on (a) advertising in the press, (b) advertising on television and radio, (c) other advertising and promotion and (d) promotion videos and sound cassettes.

Mr. Dorrell: The Department of Health's budget for communications and publicity includes provision for nurse recruitment, blood donor recruitment and drug misuse campaigns.

Information for the years 1985-86 to 1987-88 is not available in the form requested.

Expenditure by the Department's information division for 1988-89 is as follows:

	£ million
Press advertising	1.196
TV and radio advertising	1.867
Other advertising	0.661
Other material (including approximately £250,000 for videos and sound cassettes)	7.075

	£ million
<i>Expenditure for 1989-90 is as follows:</i>	
Press advertising	2.739
TV and radio advertising	3.676
Other advertising	0.865
Other material (including approximately £200,000 for videos and sound cassettes)	9.964

Goods and Services

Mr. Fisher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he will publish tables showing the amount spent on (a) acquiring and (b) commissioning goods and services by his Department in each of the last five years.

Mr. Dorrell: Departmental purchasing information systems do not differentiate between costs of acquiring and commissioning goods and services. However, information on total departmental expenditure on goods and services from 1986-87 onwards is set out in the annual reports of the Central Unit on Purchasing, copies of which are available in the Library. For years prior to 1989-90 it was not possible to differentiate Department of Health expenditure within the overall Department of Health and Social Security total.

North Derbyshire Health Authority

Mr. Harry Barnes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what honorarium is paid to each member of the North Derbyshire health authority; and how many meetings it is due to hold each year.

Mrs. Virginia Bottomley: Non-executive members of district health authorities receive an honorarium of £5,000 per annum. It is for individual health authorities to determine how often they should meet. The hon. Member may therefore wish to contact Mr. R. B. Robinson, chairman of North Derbyshire health authority, for this information.

Health Research

Mr. Robin Cook: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list (a) in cash terms and (b) deflated according to an appropriate index of higher education pay and prices the spending on health and personal social services research in each year from 1979 to the most recent year which his Department has funded in universities, polytechnics and other related institutions.

Mrs. Virginia Bottomley: Spending on health and personal social services research in England and Wales for 1989-90, the latest for which outturn figures are available, was £15.4 million.

Information for earlier years has been published in the Cabinet Office annual review of Government-funded research and development, copies of which are available in the Library.

HIV

Ms. Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received from organisations and individuals in respect of an out-of-court settlement for people who have contracted HIV through national health service infected blood or blood products.

Mr. Waldegrave [pursuant to the reply, 16 November 1990, c. 248]: The steering committee of solicitors representing the HIV haemophilic plaintiffs and their counsel have put forward to the Department of Health proposals for the settlement of this litigation which they regard as a fair and reasonable resolution of the plaintiffs' claims.

The Government have carefully considered these proposals and agree that they will provide a fair and proper way of ending this litigation and of making financial provision for all affected haemophiliacs and their dependants, whether or not they have joined in the litigation. We believe that our case is legally strong and that the plaintiffs would not succeed in proving negligence on the part of the Department of Health. None the less the Government have always recognised the very special and tragic circumstances of the haemophiliacs infected by HIV and of their families. We recognise too the harrowing effect legal action would have on them.

The Government have therefore agreed in principle to meet the steering committee's proposals.

In outline the compromise would result in the Government providing to the Macfarlane Trust, in addition to the £34 million already paid, a further sum of about £42 million for distribution to all HIV haemophiliacs and their families according to their respective circumstances. Furthermore the Government have agreed that payments from the Macfarlane Trust will not affect entitlement to social security and other statutory benefits. The plaintiffs' reasonable legal costs would also be paid by the Government.

Because the proposed settlement will require the formal approval of all individual plaintiffs, and in the case of minors, of the court, it would be inappropriate at this time to publish further details until all plaintiffs and the court have had an opportunity to consider the full terms of the settlement and to approve them.

The Government would apply the outcome of any settlement to all parts of the United Kingdom.

The Government welcome these developments, which offer a speedy way of ending the lengthy period of uncertainty for haemophiliacs and their families and of giving them additional financial security.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Official IRA

Mr. John D. Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what information his Department has on whether the Official IRA continues to exist in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement.

Dr. Mawhinney: I believe that the Official IRA still exists.

Health Research

Mr. Robin Cook: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will list (a) in cash terms and (b) deflated according to an appropriate index of higher education pay and prices the spending on health and personal social services research in each year from 1979 to the most recent year which his Department has funded in universities, polytechnics and other related institutions.

Mr. Hanley: Spending by the Department of Health and Social Services on health and personal social services research in Northern Ireland for 1989-90, the latest year for which an outturn figure is available, was £0.83 million.

Information for earlier years has been published in the appropriation accounts for Northern Ireland Departments.

Home Help

Mr. Mallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how many individuals currently in receipt of home help service receive (a) less than one hour per day, (b) less than two hours but more than one hour per day, (c) less than three hours but more than two hours per day and (d) more than three hours per day;

(2) how many individuals currently in receipt of home help service receive a daily allocation of home help time Monday to Saturday but no service on Sunday;

(3) how many individuals currently in receipt of home help service receive a daily allocation of home help time Monday to Friday but no service on Saturday and Sunday;

(4) what was the average amount of home help time received, per day, by each individual in receipt of home help service in each year since 1986, in each health board area in Northern Ireland.

Mr. Hanley [holding answers 4 December 1990]: The information requested could be made available only at disproportionate cost to the health and social services boards which are responsible for the management and delivery of the home help service.

ENVIRONMENT

Private Rented Housing

Mr. Simon Coombs: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will make a statement on the private rented housing market since the Housing Act 1988.

Mr. Yeo: It is too early to assess the overall impact of the Act on private renting. Research now in progress will provide information in the course of 1991. There are, however, clear signs of increased activity in the residential lettings market. In particular, business expansion scheme companies have so far raised £550 million, which will provide about 10,000 new homes to rent.

Bathing Beaches

Mr. Gareth Wardell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will place in the Library a copy of the National Rivers Authority reports covering all of England and Wales which provide information on the bathing beaches monitoring programme for the 1990 bathing season.

Mr. Baldry: The Secretary of State announced on 14 November that a detailed summary of these National Rivers Authority monitoring results will be placed in the Library.

Hazardous Waste

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment whether, in view of the decision by South Yorkshire waste disposal joint committee to close its