

**Mr. Benyon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of consultants' merit awards was for the years 1979-80 and 1989-90.

**Mrs. Virginia Bottomley:** The actual amounts paid out for distinction awards are not collected centrally. Award holders are paid pro rata to their sessional commitments to the NHS. Take-up is estimated to be 88.14 per cent. of the total amount authorised by the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration.

For England and Wales the estimated payments in the years concerned were:

	Authorised by DDRB £	Estimated paid £
1979-80	19,991,000	17,621,000
1989-90	69,075,760	60,883,000

### Blood Transfusions

**Sir David Steel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make immediate payments to non-haemophiliacs who contracted HIV/AIDS through infected national health service blood transfusions.

**Mr. Waldegrave:** The Government have no plans to extend further the special financial help available for haemophiliacs.

### Exercise and Diet

**Mr. Harry Greenway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken to implement his proposals for individual exercise and diet programmes to improve the health of individuals; and if he will make a statement.

**Mr. Dorrell:** Our Green Paper "The Health of the Nation" published on 4 June, a copy of which is available in the Library, proposes a strategy for achieving a positive improvement in the nation's health, identifying key areas for action, including diet and exercise, and setting targets to encourage and measure progress. It provides the basis of an extensive consultation process, running to 31 October 1991, during which the views of a wide range of professional bodies and organisations throughout the country will be sought. The results of the consultation will influence a White Paper on the health of the nation to be published later.

### Nurses

**Mr. Ieuan Wyn Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the numbers of nurses of all grades that will be required to work in the national health service by the year 2000.

**Mrs. Virginia Bottomley:** The setting of staffing levels is a matter for individual health authorities.

### Hospitals (Patient Care)

**Mr. Arbuthnot:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many non-fund-holding general practitioners are involved in the new national health service contracts for patient care in hospitals.

**Mrs. Virginia Bottomley:** Contracts for health services provide the mechanism through which all NHS services

will be secured in future. All GPs, of which over 23,000 are non-fundholding, are involved in contracts. District health authorities have consulted GPs extensively on their referral preferences. GPs have also been involved in considering quality improvements in services.

### Tobacco Advertising

**Mr. Amos:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will invite and consider submissions concerning the effectiveness of a ban on tobacco advertising.

**Mr. Waldegrave:** Yes.

### Alternative Medicine

**Mr. Tredinnick:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to meet practitioners of alternative and complementary medical treatments to discuss his Green Paper; and if he will make a statement.

**Mr. Dorrell:** It is open to any group or individual to make representations on the Green Paper during the consultation period.

### Midwives

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many midwives are currently in post in each of the health districts within the Southeast Thames health region.

**Mrs. Virginia Bottomley:** The latest information held centrally reflects the position at 30 September 1990 and is currently being validated. Figures are expected to be available in six weeks and I will write to my hon. Friend at that time.

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many students are currently training as midwives in England; and what proportion are men;

(2) how many places are available in England for direct entry midwifery students for the coming year.

**Mrs. Virginia Bottomley:** Provisional information from the English National Board for Nursing Midwifery and Health Visiting is that on 31 March 1991 there were 3,243 students training as midwives in England, including 24 men. The board's current estimate is that 147 places for pre-registration—direct entry—midwifery students will be available in England in the 1991-92 financial year.

### Waiting Lists

**Mr. Ieuan Wyn Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what initiatives his Department intends to take to reduce waiting lists for elective surgery.

**Mr. Waldegrave:** The NHS management executive is agreeing targets with all 14 regional health authorities for substantial reductions, by March 1992, in the number of patients who wait too long. We are continuing the special waiting list fund in 1991-92 to help health authorities tackle this problem.

### Residential Care Homes

**Ms. Harman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what responsibility residential care home owners and members of staff have to disclose any criminal record to the registration authority when applying to be registered under the Registered Homes Act 1984.