



THE SCOTTISH OFFICE

NHS MEL(1992)85

National Health Service in Scotland Management Executive

St. Andrew's House
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Dear Colleague

SCOTTISH HOSPITAL PLANNING NOTE 26: OPERATING DEPARTMENT

Summary

1. This letter announces the publication of Scottish Hospital Planning Note (SHPN) 26. SHPN 26 is the lead document to be used in association with its Health Building Note (HBN) counterpart. Copies of the SHPN and HBN are enclosed for your information and use. Further copies are available through HMSO priced at £6.90 for SHPN 26 and £25.00 for HBN 26.

2. Annex 1 to this letter describes the scope of SHPN 26 and provides an explanation of the cost allowances and guide to areas appropriate to the Note. Annex 2 is a table showing the appropriate Departmental Cost Allowances.

3. Activity Data Sheets appropriate to SHPN 26 do not form part of the Note, but their code numbers are listed at replacement pages 49 and 50 of the SHPN. The sheets are being prepared at present and will be published in a separate document as soon as possible. Copies of these Sheets will be issued to Health Boards and NHS Trusts.

Action

4. Health Boards and NHS Trusts should ensure that the guidance in SHPN 26 is taken into account when briefing and planning hospital projects.

Yours sincerely

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Director of Estates

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SCOTTISH HOSPITAL PLANNING NOTE (SHPN) 26: OPERATING DEPARTMENT**Scope**

1. SHPN 26 provides guidance on the planning and design of an operating department in health buildings.
2. It is the lead document to be used in association with its counterpart Health Building Note (HBN) published by the Department of Health in 1991. SHPN 26 comprises amendments to certain paragraphs of Health Building Note 26 and 15 replacement pages. SHPN 26 must be read along with HBN 26.

Cost Allowances and Guide to Areas

3. The Departmental Cost Allowances are given in Annex 2.
4. Schedules of areas used in the preparation of cost allowances are given in the Schedule of Accommodation in the SHPN (pages 47 and 48): The figures are published purely as background information and to assist at the earliest design stages when rooms and spaces require to be grouped in their correct relationships. As indicated in chapter 7 of the SHPN, the areas do not represent recommended room sizes, maximum or minimum allowances nor are they to be regarded in any way as specific individual entitlements.
5. The accommodation will rely on central hospital services for all facilities not encompassed within the guidance. The cost allowances are flexible and are designed to encourage project managers to plan for the most economical solution available to them.
6. The cost allowances in Annex 2 are higher than those which they replace. They reflect increases in floor area brought about by clinical practice in Scotland, and also reflect new health and safety and fire regulations as well as measures relating to energy conservation.
7. Some of these changes are intended to contribute to the overall improvement in efficiency which Ministers are seeking. The Scottish Office is satisfied that the changes will lead to better value for money, particularly if the functional size of the accommodation is kept to the minimum necessary to provide the planned level of service. Health Boards and NHS Trusts should be aware that if they decide to provide accommodation and services at a greater level than that envisaged in SHPN 26, penalties in the form of excessive capital and running costs may well be considerable.

DEPARTMENTAL COST ALLOWANCES

SPSBTPI Value 134

Service	Department	Accommodation	Functional Size	Cost Guide £
Main Operating Facilities	Operating	Operating Suites	4 Theatres	1,225,000
			6	1,655,000
			8	2,212,000
		Essential Complementary Accommodation: Seminar Room	1 Room	11,400
		Essential Complementary Accommodation: Clinical Nurse Teaching	1 Room	6,100
		Optional Accommodation: Ultra Clean Ventilation	1 Service	25,000