

[FAS helps over 1,500 farmers and crofters in first four months](#)

Over 1,500 Scottish farmers and crofters have benefited from attending nearly 80 events run by the new Farm Advisory Service (FAS) over the first four months since it was launched last September.

[Tens of thousands of 'adverse events' in Scotland's dementia and geriatric wards](#)

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- Tens of thousands of 'adverse events' in Scotland's dementia and geriatric wards

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Dozens of "adverse events" are recorded every day in the dementia and geriatric wards of Scotland's hospitals, new figures have shown.

A Freedom of Information request revealed 167,041 such incidents have occurred in the past six years as an under pressure health service attempts to deal with an ageing population.

The Scottish Conservatives said the data illustrates problems many vulnerable patients have encountered, as well as the daily challenges facing staff in elderly inpatient wards.

Incidents range from falls and assaults on staff to self-harm and patients absconding from secure facilities.

In NHS Borders, one staff member was injured while receiving training in dealing with aggressive patients, and in Fife there were reports of bomb threats and suspicious packages, as well as "rooftop protests".

Much more seriously, bosses at NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde said adverse events had resulted in the deaths of 49 patients since 2011.

In some cases, staff shortages were posing such a risk that employees

formally logged that as an adverse event in itself, while in the Western Isles a lack of staff was blamed directly for allowing a patient to climb out a window and escape from hospital.

Shadow health secretary Donald Cameron warned these problems would become more commonplace as Scotland's population aged, and cases of dementia increased.

The true figure is likely to be even higher, as some health boards were unable to provide the information, or supplied only the most serious of events.

Last year, it was revealed that maternity units across Scotland had also endured thousands of adverse events, prompting calls for an investigation.

Scottish Conservative shadow health secretary Donald Cameron said:

"Patients in dementia and geriatric wards are among the most vulnerable in our hospitals, and deserve the best possible care.

"And there's no question that wards dealing with dementia patients are incredibly challenging places to work: many of these incidents illustrate that.

"In such environments many of these adverse incidents will have been unavoidable, and it's a credit to hardworking NHS staff that they deal with these day, in day out.

"But patients in these wards, and their families, will be extremely worried at the sheer scale of these flashpoints.

"There are a significant number of incidents which were put down to staffing shortages, or a lack of adequate resources and training, and that very much falls at the Scottish Government's door.

"As our population ages and conditions like dementia become more prevalent, it's clear something needs to be done to ensure these incidents don't increase.

"We need to see a proper plan to make sure our staff and hospitals are equipped for all the future challenges they face."

Below is a list of the adverse events recorded by health boards for the past six years:

Ayrshire and Arran – 15,043

Borders – 10,252

Dumfries and Galloway – 6399

Fife – 19,308

Forth Valley – 13,629

Greater Glasgow and Clyde – 270

Grampian – 16,426
Highland – 7073
Lanarkshire – 33,092
Lothian – 44,890
Orkney – n/a
Shetland – n/a
Tayside – no response
Western Isles – 659

Total – 167,041

Below is a list of the national figures broken down by year:

2011 – 28,239
2012 – 28,659
2013 – 28,317
2014 – 29,847
2015 – 28,906
2016 – 23,118*

Total – 167,041

**Some health boards only supplied information for part of 2016, which may explain the lower number.*

All details were obtained by the Scottish Conservatives through Freedom of Information. For a copy of individual responses, contact the Scottish Conservative press office.

Last year, it was revealed that thousands of adverse events had occurred in maternity units across the country:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-38055060>

“Reform is an essential part of the future” says Vaughan Gething

Speaking ahead of the conference, Vaughan Gething said:

“2016 was a tumultuous year for our country. A year of unprecedented political upheaval and uncertainty that will impact on society and public service delivery for many years to come.

“But despite that uncertainty and despite record demand, our NHS delivered better health care for people across Wales. Welsh Ambulance performance is now the best in the UK, cancer survival rates continue to improve faster in Wales than any other part of

the UK and overall waiting times are down 20% on last year.

“Whatever services people use – hospitals, GPs, social care, mental health services – they expect good quality care in a timely manner. Above all else, delivering on that is our prime concern.

“Our staff have worked extremely hard this winter and we have seen diagnostic and planned care waiting times reduce dramatically over the past year. I want to thank them for their dedication and commitment to the values of the NHS and to providing high-quality care.

“I’m proud of our achievements, but I want us to be more ambitious for 2017. I want us to continue to reduce planned care and diagnostic waits. I want us to build a health service that meets and delivers on the needs of our patients and that is sustainable, in spite of the challenges.

“Reform is an essential part of the future. If we do not reform then we will not deliver the change and improvement that is needed.

“This is our mission. It won’t be easy but it will be worth it.

“It’s time good performance was recognised. I want to encourage the boards and trusts that are operating well, that are delivering for local people, and incentivise excellence in our health service. We will be exploring how we can best make that happen.”

Official Statistics: Provisional statistics – UK fleet landings from other EU member states’ waters: 2015

It is being released now in response to a request by Defra to publish management information provided to them for operational purposes. The figures are provisional and will be subject to revisions as further quality assurance is complete and as updated information are received and analysed. Due to their provisional nature these data are high level aggregations without further breakdown.

It is planned that these provisional data will be followed by a more detailed final form statistical release as part of the [UK Sea Fisheries Statistics annual publication in September 2017](#).

[Jurassic Coast map drains the sea to reveal geology](#)

Scientists from the British Geological Survey (BGS) and University of Southampton have published a seamless onshore-offshore bedrock geology map of the eastern half of the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site.