

1). Description of policy, including any assumptions necessary to allow the commitments to be costed:

This document costs the Exchequer impact of the salary and benefit costs for the additional health visitors required to meet the policy commitments on a universal health visiting described in the Opposition Party's policy document 'Helping new families'.¹

The costing uses the number of staff identified in HMT officials' bottom up costing of the Opposition commitments as its basis (as identified by the guaranteed service set out in points 1 - 5 on page 12 of the policy document).²

The costing assumes that the full commitment is reached in year 5, and that the number of health visitors builds in steady increments, beginning in 2011-12, allowing a first year for planning.

2). Information required on distributional effects of the policy:

3). Cost/Revenue to the Exchequer over five years:

Range 1	DEL (£m, rounded)					AME (£m)				
	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	Start-up cost	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Current		170	340	510	685					
Capital										
Total		170	340	510	685					

Range 2	DEL (£m, rounded)					AME (£m)				
	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	Start-up cost	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Current		95	190	290	390					
Capital										
Total		95	190	290	390					

Assumptions behind this calculation (HMT calculation)

Both ranges assume (using the policy document assumptions):

- 1) Health visitors spend the following length of time on clinical work:
 1. 6 hours on visits in first two weeks of child's life (guarantee 2)
 2. 12 hours on visits in next 6 months of child's life (guarantee 3)
 3. This leaves 5 hours of the 23 hours minimum contact time before birth and in the first year of child's life for the following 8 visits:
 - 2 visits before birth (guarantee 1)
 - 6 visits between child at 6 months and end of first year of child's (guarantee 4)

¹ 'Helping new families: Support in the early years through universal health visiting' – Conservative Party Research Department

² The costing does not use the 4,000 - 6,000 extra visitors that the Opposition have cited in their policy document.

4. 8 visits of 20 minutes (the current length of contact per visit) for every child between 1 and 5 (guarantee 5)

2) Health visitors spend 16% of their time on travel.

Range 1 assumes:

- Health visitors spend 49% of their time on non clinical work (as per 'Unit Costs of Health and Social Care 2008' p103).

Range 2 assumes:

- It is not clear what the non clinical activity of 49% in range 1 includes therefore we have run a second scenario that assumes:
- Health visitors spend 30% of their time on non clinical work.

Range 1 calculates the need for 15,223 new Health Visitors to provide the guarantees. Breakdown for 15,223 new Health Visitors using current average salaries and benefits:

- Salary costs: £449m
- Other costs: £235m
- Total salary and benefit costs: £684m

Range 2 calculates the need for 8,712 new Health Visitors to provide the guarantees. Breakdown for 8,712 new Health Visitors using current average salaries and benefits:

- Salary costs: £257m
- Other costs: £134m

Total salary and benefit costs: £391m

4). Distributional effects (if none requested, any significant):

5). Comparison with current system (if applicable):

6). Other comments (including other Departments consulted):

The bottom up assumption has been identified using publicly available data and two scenarios are provided to indicate the range of options available to the Exchequer.