



British Heart  
Foundation  
Scotland

# BHF Scotland Manifesto Briefing:

## A New Heart Disease Plan for Scotland

**2021 Manifesto Ask: Parties to commit to a bold heart disease plan and promise to provide sufficient dedicated resources to deliver on clear and effective actions.**

### Summary

Heart disease remains a major cause of death and disability in Scotland, accounting for around 10,000 deaths each year. There have been improvements in survival from heart attacks and other acute events over the last half century. However significant challenges remain.

Scottish Government's actions on heart disease are set out in the Heart Disease Improvement Plan (2014). This was a refresh of the Better Heart Disease and Stroke Care Action Plan (2009) and refocused the National Advisory Committee's attention on six key priority areas, previously identified by the Action Plan in 2009.

We estimate that around 230,000 people in Scotland have been diagnosed with coronary heart disease, over 700,000 with hypertension and around 48,000 live with heart failure. Many of these conditions, and other forms of heart diseases are also increasing, partly as a result of an ageing population and improved treatment and care from acute coronary events. Now is the time to refocus our attention, build on the progress which has been made and provide the best care for those with heart disease in Scotland.



## Need for Adequate Resource

In December 2020 it was revealed that only £1m has been spent by the Scottish Government on activities and projects relating to the current Heart Disease Improvement Plan.<sup>1</sup> This amount is concerningly low, especially given ischaemic heart disease is the nation's biggest killer. Cancer and Diabetes have received significant investment, £117m and £43m respectively, and now is the time to adequately resource heart disease diagnosis, treatment and care in Scotland too.

## A New Heart Disease Plan for Scotland

Over the last year BHF Scotland has had conversations with healthcare professionals and people living with heart disease to better understand what some of the key issues are and to identify suggested priorities. We have developed a plan from this engagement for the next Scottish Government to deliver the best possible diagnosis, treatment and care for people with heart disease. We identified 3 priority areas and have an overall vision:

**To minimise preventable heart disease and to ensure that everyone with suspected heart disease in Scotland has timely and equitable access to diagnosis, treatment and care that supports them in living well with their condition.**

- 1. To minimise preventable heart disease by improving the detection, diagnosis and management of risk factors.**
- 2. Ensure that everyone with suspected heart disease in Scotland has equitable access to timely and evidence-based diagnosis, treatment and care with all parts of the healthcare system working together to establish this.**
- 3. Ensure that high-quality, standardised data is available and used effectively to support clinical decision-making, understand patient outcomes and enable better service-planning, so that people experience better quality of care, and improved outcomes.**

**Action:** Call on political parties to commit to a bold heart disease plan and promise to provide sufficient dedicated resources to deliver on clear and effective actions.



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1. <https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-33421&ResultsPerPage=10>