

DP 891/03-07

Y Gwir Anrh/Rt Hon Rhodri Morgan AC/AM
Prif Weinidog Cymru/First Minister for Wales



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
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In my Oral Question session of 4th April, I undertook to provide you with facts and figures in relation to the cut in prescription charges.

Currently exempt prescriptions account for some 88% of the total prescriptions dispensed [93% if pre-payment certificates are included]. Some 50% of the population is exempt from charges, on grounds of age, medical condition or income.

Revenue from prescription charges covers less than 5% of the total cost of prescribed drugs. As a point of comparison, the increase in the drugs bill overall this year is twice as great as that.

For 2006-07 lost income from the cuts in prescription charges is estimated to be £16.1 million.

Over time we expect to see improvements in the health of people who no longer have to pick and choose their medication according to what they can afford to have dispensed.

I trust that the above explanation provides you with the material you were looking for.