

**PE1495/C**

Petitioner Letter of 20 December 2013

## **NUMBERS**

Labour MSP Ken Macintosh said his research shows 12,500 such agreements have been made across the public sector in the past six years, with payments totalling "at least" £52 million.

But if we apply the average HSJ payment figures to these numbers then this is the picture that emerges;

**12,500 X £29,000 = £362M.**

If we consider that individual cases may have much higher settlements attached to them and we take a conservative 10% of 12,500 who could be paid say £300K each in a compromise agreement (and that figure could be much, much higher!!) in order to 'hush them up', (and this is without considering the loss of a valuable health professional to the NHS!) then the figures become;

**1,250 people paid £375M plus 11,250 paid £326M, then the total cost to taxpayers in Scotland to pay for confidentiality clauses to cover up scandals in the public sector in the last six years could easily amount to in excess of £700M of public money.**

This money could be used to buy 28 secondary schools. It could be used to build a major new hospital or employ 2,800 nurses for 10 years!

The number of lives that it could save? Who knows!?