

# Primary Care Dentistry in Scotland

Year ending 31 March 2016

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## About this release

This release from the Information Services Division, published on behalf of the Scottish Dental Practice Board (SDPB), provides an annual update on how primary care dental services are managed and provided in Scotland, how well these services are operating, and financial payments made to dentists.

## Main points

Compared to financial year 2014-2015:

- In 2015/16, the total cost of General Dental Services and Public Dental Services in Scotland increased by 1.8% to £402.1m.
- Total payments made to dentists increased by 3.0% to £349.5m.
- Costs of dental registration fees for both children and adults increased by 2.1% and 4.3% respectively. This is due to fee increases and to higher numbers of patients registered.
- The total cost of treatment fees increased by 1.0% to £125.8m. However, this is due to a feescale increase of 1.6%; numbers of treatments provided continue to decrease year on year.
- Due to changes in superannuation contribution rates for NHS employers there was a further increase in costs to NHS Boards.

## Background

SDPB work in partnership with Scottish Government, NHS National Services Scotland, NHS Boards, NHS Education for Scotland and other organisations to develop the provision of General Dental Services in Scotland. This includes authorising payment of fees to dentists, carrying out research into the provision of dental services, and making recommendations to Scottish Government in respect of dental services. SDPB provide Scottish Ministers with this annual report to summarise this activity.

The NHS General Dental Service (GDS) provides a full range of NHS treatments to patients and is mostly provided by high-street 'independent' dentists. The Public Dental Service (PDS) was formed of a merger of the salaried and community dental service on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014. The main role of PDS dentists is to provide GDS for those patients with special care needs.

## Contact

### **Hew Mathewson**

Chairman

Scottish Dental Practice Board

[hmathewson@nhs.net](mailto:hmathewson@nhs.net)

0131 275 7740

### **Martin Morrison**

Associate Director

Practitioner and Counter Fraud Services

[martin.morrison@nhs.net](mailto:martin.morrison@nhs.net)

0131 275 6607

### **Adele Trainer**

Service Manager (Primary & Secondary Care)

ISD Scotland

[adele.trainer@nhs.net](mailto:adele.trainer@nhs.net)

0141 282 2169

## Find out more

The Information Services Division publishes a wide range of dental statistics. You can find all our dental information at the [ISD Dental Website](#).

Further information can be found in the [Primary Care in Dentistry Report](#) and the [Scottish Dental Practice Board website](#).

The next update of this publication will be in Spring 2018.

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## ISD and Official Statistics

Information Services Division (ISD) is the principal and authoritative source of statistics on health and care services in Scotland. ISD is designated by legislation as a producer of 'Official Statistics'. Our official statistics publications are produced to a high professional standard and comply with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. [Find out more about our statistics.](#)