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NHS Dental Contractors

27 July 2023

Dear practitioner

I am writing to provide full details of Scottish Government's payment reform, including the new list of item of service fees, which will launch on 1 November 2023.

The new system, outlined in more detail in the PCA and Determination I, has been designed through significant engagement with contractors, followed by further discussions with BDA Scotland on fee levels. Bringing improved clinical discretion more into focus, the reform of Determination I will modernise the delivery of NHS dentistry and allow you to provide the right level of care to patients at the right time.

The fees represent an increase in what Government expects to spend on item of service. They also incorporate the DDRB recommendation of 6% on fee items and Cap/Con payments, which will also flow through to GDPA through the higher item of service payments. The pay award will be implemented with reform on 1 November and backdated payments will be made, including the value of 'bridging' payments from 1 April to 31 October 2023. I am cognisant of the wider economic backdrop and, I hope that, in looking across all payments, you will find the overall package attractive.

I recognise there remains further work to do to ensure the long term sustainability of dental businesses, and I look forward to working with you as we test and refine the system post-launch. As always, we will be looking to ensure value for money, that clinical care is delivering for patients, and that the sector is supported.

This is the biggest change to NHS dental services in many years and I anticipate you will have lots of questions. The information provided with this letter will therefore be further supported by educational material designed with NES, which will 'go live' in September.

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Finally, I thank you for the high quality and committed care you are providing to your patients, and look forward to working with you as we use this reform as a springboard to deliver sustainable and equitable NHS patient care for the long-term.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jenni Minto". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jenni Minto
Minister for Public Health and Women's Health

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