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Directors of Dentistry

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24 June 2025

**CDO Letter 2025(4) – Atlas of Variation – Evaluation**

Dear Colleague

Further to my letter to you of 6 May 2025, I am now writing to invite you to participate in a short survey on the [Scottish Atlas of Healthcare Variation](#) (the Atlas). As set out in my previous letter, the May update to the Atlas includes data on hospital paediatric dental extractions under general anaesthesia for the first time, and I had asked you to consider how the Atlas can begin to be used in your Board area, and nationally, to understand and take action to reduce unwarranted variation within paediatric extraction referral rates.

The purpose of this evaluation survey is to understand whether you find the Atlas a useful tool for identifying and addressing unwarranted variation, and whether it supports efforts to improve equity of access to care for the people who need help the most.

The [survey can be accessed online](#) and should take around ten minutes to complete.

**Please submit your survey response as soon as possible, before 10 July 2025.**

Can I also ask you to please cascade this letter through your local networks to colleagues who have used, or will use the Atlas, so that we can collate a wide set of views for evaluation. Your insights will help enhance the effectiveness and relevance of the Atlas, ensuring it better meets users' needs and supports the ongoing improvement of healthcare services.

Yours Sincerely,



Tom Ferris  
Chief Dental Officer