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Dear colleagues,

Appointment of the Chief Dental Officer, Scotland

I write to inform you that, following an open recruitment process, Dr Gillian Leslie has been appointed as the Chief Dental Officer (CDO) for Scotland, effective 1 January 2026.

Gillian has served as one of two Deputy Chief Dental Officers to the outgoing CDO, Dr Tom Ferris, since 2021 and in this role was instrumental in our delivery of NHS dental reform from November 2023, bringing in her experience as a practising dentist and business owner to deliver sustainable change for the profession.

I am delighted that Gillian will now have the opportunity to build on this successful programme to deliver further, meaningful action for oral health and dental care in Scotland, working in partnership with you and your teams. In her new role as CDO, Gillian will be responsible for overseeing all aspects of NHS dental policy and clinical leadership to ensure that we continue to deliver safe, effective and sustainable care to the communities that we serve.

Please join me both in congratulating Gillian on her appointment, and in wishing Tom all the best for his well-deserved retirement. I invite you to share this letter with your networks.

Yours sincerely,



Tim McDonnell
Director, Primary Care