

E: NHSDentistry@gov.scot

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Dear Colleagues,

I wanted to write and thank you for all your best wishes and support as I start in my new position as Deputy Director for Primary Care/Chief Dental Officer. Your kind words are greatly appreciated.

I would also like to thank those of you who worked over the festive period making sure patients had access to care, whether routine or as part of an emergency or out of hours service.

Many of you will be aware that the Scottish election will be held in May. Prior to the pre-election period – which we anticipate will start towards the end of March – I intend to visit all Health Board areas to meet with the local Director of Dentistry, Dental Practice Advisor(s) and representatives of the board to discuss local issues, innovations and successes.

This will allow me and the CDO team to gather information on local issues within the General and Public Dental Services, both to inform our work as well as to support the briefing of incoming government ministers on dental matters from across the sector.

I will attend these visits with an SG official and a Deputy Chief Dental Officer, and I would therefore also like to take this opportunity to welcome two new interim Deputies who have recently been appointed – Morag Muir and Kate Wiseman. Morag is a Consultant in Dental Public Health based in NHS Forth Valley, while Kate is an Assistant Clinical Director in NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde's Public Dental Service and both will join Gavin McLellan who continues in his role as Deputy CDO. I think that between us all, this newly formed clinical team represents a broad range of experience from across the dental sector and I look forward to working with them.

For your wider awareness, we have just laid down secondary legislation to bring in changes to Prior Approval and the listing process for Mandatory Training. While both are in continued development and negotiation with BDA Scotland, I am keen to share our overall intention for these policy changes with you now and I will keep you up to date with these changes as soon as I am able to do so.

The intention for reform of Prior Approval is to move away from a financial limit to a clinical risk trigger, particularly focused on items such as crowns, bridges, endodontic treatment and/or a combination of these items. Certain items which currently cause the financial limit to be reached and trigger a Prior Approval requirement – such as dentures, sedation and multiple extractions – will therefore be removed once the changes are in force, anticipated to be the 1 November 26.

For Mandatory Training, while all dentists entering Scotland will still be required to complete a course of Mandatory Training, we will introduce the ability for Boards to provisionally list GDC-registered dentists where their intended start date would fall between the quarterly courses offered by NHS Education for Scotland. If the provisional listee does not subsequently complete or pass the training within six months of their initial listing, they will be delisted. This listing change will come into force on 31 January 26 and is expected to support rural recruitment in particular, through provision of flexibility with respect to course attendance.

I hope that the initial detail of these changes is welcome to you, and I will issue further detail on both Prior Approval and changes to listing arrangements for Mandatory Training later on this month, once the necessary consultations have concluded. In the meantime, I would like to again express my profound thanks to all of you, the dental teams, who continue to deliver care and treatment day in and day out to the people of Scotland.

Kind Regards,



Gillian Leslie