

**From the Office of the Minister**  
Diane Dodds MLA



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11 November 2020

Dear Tristen

### **Support for Private Dentistry Practices**

Thank you for your email dated 6<sup>th</sup> November 2020, and the accompanying letter from Mr David Graham, the Chair of the NI Dental Practice Committee.

As you will be aware, the challenges presented by COVID-19 are both significant and complex. Huge economic impacts that might normally take months or years to unfold occurred within weeks as a result of lockdown and industry shutdowns.

Unfortunately, as has been the case now for many months, Northern Ireland finds itself in the midst of a public health crisis and the economic and financial implications, across all sectors and occupations, are both significant and enduring.

I have received and responded to a significant number of communications and correspondence on behalf of many sectors throughout the past eight months, and during this time, the level of financial support provided by the Executive and the UK Government has been unprecedented and continuous.

Further to the recent decision regarding further restrictions, the Executive has launched a number of financial support packages. Information on these latest schemes, including eligibility criteria and the application process for those that are now open, can be found on the NI Business Info website:

<https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/campaign/coronavirus-updates-support-your-business>

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has also made some significant announcements regarding Coronavirus support to employers and employees, which will benefit many in Northern Ireland, right through to March 2021, and possibly beyond:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/business-support>

I do not underestimate the challenges facing your particular profession at this time, however, you will not be surprised to learn that my Department is receiving calls from

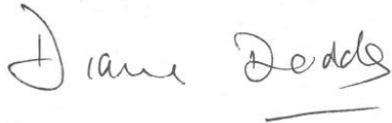
a growing number of sectors, all of whom believe that they require additional support over and above that already offered by the Executive, including the current raft of new schemes that have been launched or are in development.

Therefore, in considering any further interventions, including new funding or packages of financial support, it will be for the Executive collectively, to determine how this limited budget will be allocated, to best encourage and drive economic recovery moving forward.

This is a very live and fluid situation and I, along with my Executive colleagues hope to make further announcements in due course, and will continue to engage with the UK Government in relation to COVID-19, and the support that will be required to help businesses and the economy to respond to this pandemic, and then start to rebuild and recover as we move forward.

In the meantime, I would encourage all stakeholders to continue to monitor the websites above, and to listen for any future announcements through the various media outlets.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diane Dodds". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

**DIANE DODDS MLA**  
**Minister for the Economy**