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David McColl
Chair, Scottish Dental Practice Committee
BDA (Scotland)

17 September 2020

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter on 29 July about the matter of payment for incomplete courses of treatment that were opened before the closure of dental practices due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As you will be aware we have undertaken a thorough review of our approach with regard to this issue, and I am now in a position to report back following this.

While I appreciate that funding during the response to the COVID-19 pandemic is a source of considerable concern for the BDA (Scotland) the Scottish Government's position on the issue you raise, around open courses of treatment, is that these payments are contained within the overall funding allocation for individual dentists during this challenging period and therefore an additional payment is not required.

The aim of the financial support measures that are currently in place is to ensure that dental practitioners receive a minimum income guarantee. This is a vital element of the government's responsible approach to ensure that the capability and capacity of the NHS dental service is able to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The intention of the scheme is therefore an emergency response that provides for a direct financial support to dentists for a limited time within the overall strategy that the government is taking towards mitigating the impact of COVID-19.

Yours sincerely



Tom Ferris
Chief Dental Officer