

**From the Permanent Secretary
and HSC Chief Executive**



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Dear Tristen

Thank you for your letter of 16 August 2023 regarding the issue of dental trainee pay in Northern Ireland.

I understand this issue has arisen due to a previous interpretation of the competencies and skills required of Dental Core Trainees in Northern Ireland as being equivalent to doctors undertaking Foundation Year 2 training. Like any assessment, this was done at a point in time, and I recognise that all services, training requirements and requisite skills and responsibilities evolve.

Colleagues in the Department's Workforce Policy Directorate have asked the Chief Dental Officer and the Post-Graduate Dental Dean to undertake an evaluation of the competencies of this group of staff. Once this report has been received and reviewed, I will be in a better position to respond to your proposal.

Yours sincerely



Peter May