

NHS Dental Teams
Tom Ferris – Chief Dental Officer

16 March 2021

Dear NHS Dental Teams

NHS Dental Services Sustainability

In my role as Minister for Public Health and Sport, I have been greatly impressed by the achievements made to remobilise NHS dentistry by teams across Scotland, I am grateful for all your efforts and commitment to the NHS in providing care and treatment for your patients.

The purpose of this letter is to set-out the administrative intentions for NHS dental services in the 2021/22 financial year. I am sure that you will be aware that the government has been considering system reforms under the New Model of Care. These reforms have been paused due to the pandemic and it is clear that there are pressing and largely financial matters that require more immediate change.

It is necessary to bring forward changes to the financial support measures through an interim financial arrangement for NHS dentistry, in 2021/22, that will provide medium-term funding sustainability. The financial support measures that were put in place at the end of March 2020 were not intended to be a long-term funding solution for NHS dentistry and these require to be updated. Building on the existing financial support measures and making them more sustainable will give NHS dental practices reassurance about their funding arrangements and allow them to develop future plans for their businesses within the NHS. The settled medium-term financial position will allow for government, wider dental stakeholders and the public to consider the aims and requirements for whole system reform and the New Model of Care.

As indicated in the October 2020 PCA, a key element of the administration of NHS dental services is to support remobilisation through a tiered arrangement linking activity and patient registration levels to funding in 2021/22. These tiers were due to become part of the system this month but were deferred due to the present lockdown situation. I am keen to ensure that NHS dental services are well placed to deliver remobilised services as safely as possible and it is clear that government support around PPE and ventilation of the estate is important in the coming period. I understand that some immediate survey work is planned to inform policy on ventilation.

Finally, I can reassure you that the government remains fully committed to ensuring that patients receive the care and treatment through the NHS dental contractors, in line with supporting remobilisation activity and public health policy. The Chief Dental Officer, Tom Ferris, will be in a position to communicate the full details of what is planned in the summer.

With my best wishes.

Regards,



Mairi Gougeon

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