



Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref VG/09020/20

Dr Katrina Clarke
Chair, Welsh Council
British Dental Association Wales
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8 December 2020

Dear Dr Clarke,

Thank you for your letter of 16 November about funding for improved ventilation in dental practices.

I recognise the challenges and appreciate the efforts which dental professionals continue to make and share your wish to increase service provision to support patients. I am pleased you acknowledge the recent changes to the SOP have helped reduce fallow time and we will continue to keep the guidance under review.

Recent data on the increasing number of patients being treated in practice is encouraging but I accept the return of services will continue to be incremental. Welsh Government has acknowledged capacity for dental care in practices will be limited by physical measures and the need for the continued use of enhanced PPE. I am sure you and your members share the need for dental practices to continue to follow strict infection control measures to protect practice staff, patients and the wider community.

You will appreciate the additional costs Covid-19 has brought and that any Welsh Government support has to be designed to be affordable and within the available funding. However, I am pleased to inform you that Welsh Government has agreed a funding package of £450,000 in 2020-21 to support dental practices providing NHS services improve surgery ventilation.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

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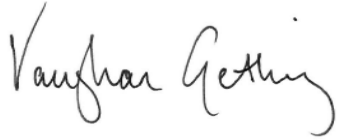
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Funding will be allocated on a proportional basis to health boards, who I believe are best placed to understand the requirements of their individual local dental practices. Officials will liaise with health boards over the next few weeks on the distribution of the funding to ensure it reaches relevant NHS practices as quickly as possible.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Vaughan Gething AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services