

To: General Dental Practitioners

BY EMAIL ONLY

11th May 2020

Dear Colleague

Redeployment work: Update and Next Steps

I am writing to thank you all for your recent and timely responses to the various requests for volunteers for the urgent dental care centres, the regional triage centre, and the local care homes redeployment opportunities. I have been overwhelmed by the manner in which our GDP colleagues have openly embraced this collective effort to assist our patients and wider health service at this extremely challenging time.

I am aware that there are a number of GDPs who are currently unable to offer assistance outside of their home due to health conditions and other factors. In this regard thank you to all those that kindly took the time to formally register the nature of their personal circumstances in response to the Availability Declaration request issued to all GDPs on 28th April 2020. Please be assured that the information submitted is duly being considered on a confidential basis as we continue to explore potential options for remote redeployment work which may be more compatible with the personal circumstances raised by many GDPs. It is not intended to respond to each response individually so please accept this letter as assurance that you should not expect a response to your declaration at this time.

I appreciate that this is an anxious time for many of you as you balance the challenges of meeting ongoing practice demands, redeployment work and personal / family commitments. I note from the responses received to date that many of you have concerns and / or queries regarding the extent of your work and personal commitments at this time, and how this ultimately impacts on your current availability. In this regard, please note that in terms of the expectations regarding the Financial Support Scheme (FSS) we would not expect any GDP to work more sessions across their own practice and / or any other redeployment opportunity than the individual's typical pre-COVID health service sessions.

As highlighted above, we are continuing to explore further redeployment opportunities, including potential remote working roles for those that have declared that they are unable to work outside of their home at this time. We will issue further information on these roles as soon as this becomes available.

Thank you for your patience as we progress this work and for your ongoing support during this challenging time.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Donaldson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'M'.

Michael Donaldson
Assistant Director, Integrated Care
Head of Dental Services, Health & Social Care Board

cc. Paul Montgomery, Director of General Healthcare Policy, DoH