

**GENERAL HEALTHCARE POLICY
DIRECTORATE**



To: All NI GDPs
BY EMAIL

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COVID-19: FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO GENERAL DENTAL SERVICES

I am writing to set out the further changes that will be made to the calculation of payments under the General Dental Services (GDS) Financial Support Scheme (FSS) in respect of General Dental Practitioners (GDPs) who were on maternity leave during 2019-20.

As set out in my letter to you of 30 April 2020, the calculation of the FSS payments for those GDPs who were on maternity leave in 2019-20 excludes the months in which a GDP received a maternity payment with the lowest payment in the remaining months also not included in the payment calculations. However, in response to the concerns expressed by a number of those affected, further analysis has been undertaken in relation to the number of months it takes for Item of Service (IoS) claims to return to a steady state level following maternity leave.

As a result, the approach to FSS calculations will be amended, with effect from the start of the scheme, with the 3 lowest months excluded as well as the months in which a GDP was on maternity leave. Furthermore, where there are 3 month's data or less for the GDP in 2019-20 following the exclusions, the case will be looked at on an individual basis. I have asked BSO to ensure that the back payment to the GDPs affected is made as a supplementary payment as soon as possible.

Yours Sincerely

Paul Montgomery

**PAUL MONTGOMERY
DIRECTOR OF GENERAL HEALTHCARE POLICY**