

**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 inform you that the Minister of Health, Robin Swann MLA has approved the allocation of an additional £3.8 million in funding to the General Dental Service (GDS) in respect of the cost of Level 2 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). This is in recognition that General Dental Practitioners (GDPs) have been faced with additional costs due to the need to put in place enhanced PPE infection control requirements to allow for the resumption of non-urgent dental care involving Aerosol Generating Procedures (AGPs). The funding is to cover a four month period.

In the first instance, the funding will be provided in the form of the removal of the abatement factor in the Financial Support Scheme (FSS) calculations for August and September to reflect the increase in PPE costs offsetting the reduced level of other variable costs. The final payments under the FSS were due to be made in respect of the August Item of Service payments, to be replaced with financial arrangements that better reflect the easing of restrictions. However, in light of the significant uncertainties regarding the impact of the current infection control requirements, the FSS payments will continue for the September payment, again with no abatement applied.

The equivalent additional funding for Level 2 PPE (£0.9 million per month) will be added to the available budget in respect of the funding arrangements for the October and November payments. We have engaged with the British Dental Association and NI Dental Practice Committee in respect of the design of these funding arrangements.

The additional funding for Level 2 PPE agreed by the Minister of Health brings the total amount of additional funding that has been provided to the GDS budget in response to the Covid-19 pandemic to £10 million, following the previous funding allocations for the FSS, Level 1 PPE, and Urgent Dental Care centres.

Yours Sincerely

*Paul Montgomery*

**PAUL MONTGOMERY  
DIRECTOR OF GENERAL HEALTHCARE POLICY**