



Department of
Health

An Roinn Sláinte

Máinnystrie O Poustie

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To all dental professionals in Northern Ireland

Dear colleague

Regulation (EU) 2024/1849 - New arrangements for the use of Dental Amalgam in the EU and impact on Northern Ireland

You may be aware that EU Regulation 2024/1849 came into force on 30 July 2024, which has the purpose of phasing-out the use of dental amalgam. Under the terms of the Windsor Framework, this amended regulation applies in Northern Ireland.

The Department of Health were very concerned about the impacts of the amended EU Law on the delivery of dental care and treatment in Northern Ireland. To that end, officials worked closely with UK Cabinet Office and secured a significant and material derogation for Northern Ireland.

In short, the derogation sets out an arrangement that allows dental professionals in Northern Ireland to continue to use dental amalgam until 31 December 2034 or until the date agreed by the global Minamata Convention on Mercury to which the UK and EU are both signatories — whichever date is earlier.

There are, however, some new legal requirements you need to be aware of. From 1 January 2025:

- dental amalgam can only be used for dental treatment in Northern Ireland if the patient resides in the United Kingdom and if the treatment is carried out by a dental practitioner registered for that purpose in Northern Ireland.

- The export of dental amalgam from Northern Ireland to outside the UK shall be prohibited.
- The import of dental amalgam destined for dental practitioners in Northern Ireland will need to be commensurate to use.

Further guidance will follow in relation to these conditions, and in particular the ban on placing amalgam restorations in patients who do not reside in the UK.

The derogation notice is applicable to all dental settings, both Health Service and privately delivered care.

In the coming weeks, the Northern Ireland Mercury Working Group will engage with representatives across the dental sector on the outworkings of the derogations to discuss the changes necessary to the Northern Ireland National Plan for dental amalgam.

My intention is to ensure as smooth a transition as possible for you as practitioners, and for patients, so that we can meet the realisation of a phase-out of dental amalgam in Northern Ireland.

I would be grateful if this letter was disseminated to all members of the dental team in your workplace.

Yours sincerely

Caroline Lappin .

**Chief Dental Officer
Northern Ireland**

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Regulation (EU) 2024/1849 amending Regulation (EU) 2017/852 on mercury as regards dental amalgam and other mercury-added products <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52024XC04675>

Commission Notice C/2024/4675 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52024XC04675>