



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 - Prohibition on the use of Dental Amalgam for Non-UK Residents**

Further to my letter dated 6 November 2024 outlining the new arrangements for the use of dental amalgam in the EU and impact on Northern Ireland, I wish to highlight the new legal requirements which come into effect from 1 January 2025, alongside some guidance for adhering to these.

As per the EU Commission Notice in relation to the amendments to Regulation (EU) 2017/852

- 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.

The legal requirements are applicable to all dental settings across Northern Ireland, including both Health Service and privately delivered care.

Provision of a home address in the UK by a patient can be taken as confirmation that the patient resides in the UK.

Policies and procedures should therefore be updated to ensure compliance with these requirements.

Monitoring of compliance will be undertaken through existing routine monitoring arrangements, practice declarations, and practice inspections. Alleged breaches of the EU Mercury Regulation or the EU Commission Notice will be referred to the NIEA for investigation.

A Memorandum of Dental Services will be issued to all General Dental Service practitioners to facilitate the provision of alternative treatments to non-UK residents. The approach outlined in the MDS will be reviewed as part of the longer term amalgam phase-out plan for Northern Ireland and I look forward to engaging with the profession on this in the coming year.

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**

**Enc.**

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>