

PRIMARY CARE DIRECTORATE



To: All NI General Dental Practitioners

BY EMAIL

Primary Care Directorate
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Belfast
BT4 3SQ

Email:
gdocorrespondence@health-ni.gov.uk

Date: 11 February 2026

Dear Colleagues,

STATEMENT OF DENTAL REMUNERATION 2025/26 – ARREARS PAYMENTS

I am writing with an update regarding the dental pay award for 2025/26.

Following the Minister of Health's announcement in November 2025 confirming the Executive's approval of the 2025/26 pay uplift, Departmental officials and colleagues in Business Services Organisation have been working through the steps required to implement the uplift for General Dental Practitioners.

The implementation of the Statement of Dental Remuneration (SDR) is a complex multi-stage process involving several business areas and external system providers. A standard element of this process is the requirement for dental contractors' third-party software providers to have a 12-week lead in period to update their systems to reflect the updated SDR. When combined with the other operational steps required to implement the updated SDR, this meant that full implementation of the 2025/26 uplift would not be finalised by February 2026.

In light of this, and to ensure that practitioners do not experience a longer delay than intended, the Health Minister has approved a one-off approach that will allow arrears to be paid earlier than would otherwise have been possible. A portion of arrears will

be issued to General Dental Practitioners in **March 2026**, with the remainder paid between **April and June 2026**. A payment schedule setting out full details of the payments is set out below:

March 2026	80% of Items of Service/Patient Registrations arrears payable. Old SDR rates continue to be paid for March 2026.
April 2026	Old SDR rates will continue to be paid on claims submitted for April 2026 payment (up to FPPS Portal close on 9 April 2026). New SDR rates to be implemented and paid for claims submitted on or after 16 April 2026 (available from when FPPS Portal opens).
May 2026	Balance of 20% Items of Service /Patient Registration arrears payable.
June 2026	All other outstanding arrears payable (Scale Additions, Absence related payments, EDC/Oral Surgery Pilot, DAS, CPDA, Clinical Audit and Trainee Salary/grant/block payment).

This payment schedule is being implemented on an exceptional one-off basis and should not be regarded as setting a precedent for future pay uplifts. Where future pay uplifts are approved, they will be processed and paid in line with established procedures and standard processing timelines.

The Department will continue to review the procedural steps involved in the uplift process, with a view to improving efficiency for future years' payments, and ensuring that arrears payments can be made to practitioners at the earliest practicable point.

As this approach sits outside of usual processes, these payments will need to be manually processed by BSO, and the Payments Team will therefore be working under significant pressure to deliver this work within the required timeframe. I would therefore ask practitioners to refrain from contacting BSO regarding individual cases until after the June payment cycle has been completed. This will enable BSO to complete the necessary processing as efficiently as possible and ensure timely payment for all. BSO is preparing a list of FAQs that will be shared with practitioners shortly.

Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "LThompson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Leanne Thompson

Head of General Dental & Ophthalmic Services

cc: Gearóid Cassidy, Director of Primary Care
Caroline Lappin, Chief Dental Officer, DoH
Michael Donaldson, Head of Dental Services, SPPG
Orla Donaghy, Assistant Director, Family Practitioner Services (BSO)