

Statement of Dental Remuneration (SDR) 2025/26 Arrears Payments

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

This document outlines the agreed payment schedule for the 2025/26 SDR increase of 4.04% to gross fees and allowances, as well as arrears payments, to be made to General Dental Practitioners and staged between the payment months March and June 2026.

Why are arrears being paid differently this year, over a period of 4 months?

The 2025/26 SDR uplift requires a complex, multi-stage implementation process, which involves system changes within the FPPS dental payment system, updates by external EDI software suppliers and internal validation across several different payment streams.

Third-party EDI software suppliers, engaged directly by dental contractors, require a 12-week lead-in time to implement any SDR changes. BSO co-ordinate a go live date with EDI suppliers following receipt of instruction from the Strategic Planning and Performance Group and once supplied with a copy of an updated SDR document.

The Minister has approved a one-off exceptional payment arrangement this year, in order to allow a significant proportion of arrears to be paid early. *However*, this does *not* set a precedent for how future uplift arrears will be paid.

What will I expect in my March 2026 payment from BSO?

In March 2026, the following arrears will be paid to contractors:

- 80% Items of Service (IoS)/treatment arrears covering the period 1 April 2025 to 9 March 2026 inclusive.
- Patient Registration arrears from 1 April 2025 to 28 February 2026 inclusive.

Please note the 2024/25 SDR rates will continue to apply for claims submitted and approved for inclusion in your March 2026 payment.

What changes are to be made that will impact my April 2026 payment?

There will be no changes made by BSO that will impact your April 2026 payment.

The 2024/25 SDR rates will continue to be paid on approved claims included in your April 2026 payment.

When will the new SDR rates be visible to me?

The new 2025/26 SDR rates will be implemented within the FPPS dental payment system/EDI suppliers, and made visible to dental contractors for any claims submitted on or after 16 April 2026.

A copy of the 2025/26 SDR and associated MDS will be included within the BSO monthly correspondence issued to dental contractors, immediately after the April 2026 payment has been processed.

How will my May 2026 payment be structured?

In May 2026, you can expect to receive the following included in your monthly payment:

- Balance of IoS/treatment arrears which relates to the period 10 March 2026 to 9 April 2026 inclusive.
- Balance of Patient Registration arrears from 1-31 March 2026 inclusive.
- All claims submitted for payment from 16 April 2026 will be paid at the new 2025/26 SDR rate and paid in the May 2026 payment.
- Patient Registration payments from 1 April 2026 onwards will be paid at the uplifted 2025/26 SDR rates, from the May 2026 payment.

What arrears will I receive payment for in June 2026?

During June 2026, BSO will process and pay the following arrears to you:

- Scale Additions
- Maternity/Paternity/Adoption/Long-Term Sickness
- Emergency Dental Centre (EDC)
- Oral Surgery Ortho Pilot Treatment Codes
- Dental Access Scheme (DAS)
- CPDA
- Clinical Audit
- Trainee Salary/Grant/Block Payment

What should I do if I have a query about any of the arrears payments being made to me?

As the method of processing arrears payments has changed compared with previous years, the Dental Payment Team will be working under significant pressure to make the arrears payments due from March 2026.

If you have a query related to the 2025/26 SDR arrears payments, please submit these to the Dental Finance inbox at DentalFinance.BSO@hscni.net, however please note the Dental Payments Team will not be in a position to respond to your query until after the June 2026 payment cycle has been completed. You are therefore asked to refrain from contacting BSO with specific queries, until after the the last of the arrears payments have been processed and paid to you.