

PRIMARY CARE DIRECTORATE



To: All NI General Dental Practitioners

BY EMAIL

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Date: 04 March 2026

Dear Colleague

General Dental Services Activity Enhancement Payment 2025/26

I am writing to provide an update regarding the £1.6 million additional funding to support practitioners who continue to provide Health Service dental care.

General Dental Services team, in collaboration with the Chief Dental Officer, have developed and modelled a number of allocation options for this funding. Following consideration of these options, and advice from the Department's Legal Advisers, the following approach has been agreed.

The funding will be allocated based on a 60/40 basis, with **60%** of the funding paid out proportionally according to IoS claims made in 2025/26, and **40%** allocated based on the number of registered patients.

For any General Dental Practitioners who are or have received, long term absence payments for this period (such as maternity, paternity, or sickness), these payments will also be allocated on a 60/40 basis, with 60% of the value attributed to IoS activity and 40% to the number of registered patients.

Payments made under this arrangement will be treated as superannuable and will not contribute toward Practice Allowance payments.

It is anticipated that BSO will make this payment in the April payment schedule.

I hope that you find this update helpful.

Yours sincerely,



Leanne Thompson

Head of General Dental & Ophthalmic Services

CC: Caroline Lappin, Chief Dental Officer, DoH
Gearóid Cassidy, Director of Primary Care
Michael Donaldson, Head of Dental Services, SPPG
Tristen Kelso, Director, BDA Northern Ireland