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NHS Dental Teams

By email

7 February 2023

Dear Dental Teams

Update on bridging payment and reform

I am writing to provide you with an update about how Scottish Government will be supporting the NHS dental sector over the coming months, as we prepare to deliver payment system reform.

I am able to confirm that the 1.1 interim 'bridging' payment will remain in place until 31 October 2023, this will support you to continue to deliver the high quality and greatly valued NHS dental care to your patients. I have been pleased to see how well the dental sector has been performing and it is clear to me that the 'bridging' payment has supported the sector to provide significant levels of NHS patient care during this difficult time.

As described in my previous letter of 23 September 2022 the Scottish Government intend to present the revised Determination I in April 2023. This will allow time over the next few months to engage with you in relation to the vital issue of the implementation of the revised Determination I, such as education and to ensure the necessary IT solutions are in place by 31 October 2023. I have been pleased to see the support that the sector has provided the government through surveys and the CDO Advisory Group, I am most grateful for this level of engagement on these important discussions around reform.

I can share an overview of the revised Determination I, which has been closely developed with the CDO Advisory Group: [Updated 17/01 – CDO Advisory Group – Meeting Papers | Scottish Dental](#). I trust that the sector can be assured that your voices have been heard in the development of the revised Determination I, and that these changes move the sector positively in a direction of improved clinical delivery of patient care within NHS dentistry. The revised Determination I continues to allow for complete care of NHS patients to secure oral health, through an improved focus on preventive and anticipatory care and will more closely follow the latest clinical best practice.

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I am keen to work closely with your sectoral representative body (BDA Scotland) to consider the appropriate level of fees and negotiate an agreeable outcome to ensure that the government is able to offer you assurance on sustaining your dental businesses to deliver high quality NHS dentistry to your patients and that this is reflective of the public purse. Alongside the formal discussions, I am keen to continue to engage more widely with the sector to understand any concerns that you may have about change.

I trust this letter brings reassurance to you as business owners, partners and contractors, and that it supports you to continue to provide essential NHS patient care in Scotland for the foreseeable future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Yousaf', is centered on the page. The signature is written in a cursive style with a vertical line extending downwards from the end.

HUMZA YOUSAF

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