



Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration

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Dentists' Remuneration
Level 3
Windsor House
Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0TL

Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London
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01 February 2023

Dear Secretary of State,

In your remit letter this year, you said that it was important that the timetable of the pay review body round was brought back to normal, and that you were hoping to expedite the process as much as possible this year. You also said that you would welcome receiving the report in April 2023, subject to ongoing conversations with OME.

As clearly indicated in our previous Reports, I share this aim, as do other parties to the process. In order to help achieve this, the DDRB secretariat communicated to all parties a deadline for written evidence of 11 January. Almost all parties submitted their written evidence by or shortly after this date. However, it is now three weeks since that deadline, and we have still yet to receive written evidence from your Department. We have also yet to receive a clear indication of when your written evidence will be forthcoming.

I am increasingly concerned that delays to the submission of written evidence will affect when we can submit our report and recommendations. We are now at the point where our programme of oral evidence will be compromised by the continued absence of written evidence from you. Sessions with some parties, including with your officials and Ministerial colleagues, face being delayed. This will lead to our evidence-led process concluding later than was planned, and therefore to delays in the submission of our report to you and the other governments. Ultimately, hard-working members of our remit group may receive their pay uplift for 2023-24 later as a result of this.

As we said previously in our reports, delays of this nature send an unhelpful signal to our remit group about the way in which their pay setting process, and our role within it, is viewed. During a period of time when the pay review process is under increased pressure and scrutiny, this cannot be in the interests of any of the stakeholders in the process.

I would therefore urge you to submit evidence as soon as possible and without further delay.

Copies of this letter will be sent to the other parties, and it will also be published on the DDRB website.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Pilgrim', with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the signature.

Christopher Pilgrim
Chair, Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration