

Wednesday, 07 October 2020

Ms Diane Dodds MLA
Minister
Department for the Economy
Netherleigh House
Massey Avenue
Belfast
BT4 2JP

Re. Private dentistry

Dear Minister

I refer to our reply from Minister Swann of 5th October, in which he confirms he has written to you as Minister for the Economy suggesting that consideration be given to establishing a grant scheme to assist practices in respect of their lost income from private dentistry.

Moreover, Minister Swann has said that should you be willing to establish such a scheme, he has offered the support of Business Services Organisation (BSO) in the administration of payments.

Do you recognise as the Health Minister does, 'the risk to the sustainability of mixed private and health service practices due to the loss of private earnings', and will you therefore agree to establish a grant scheme to support lost income from private dentistry to support mixed/private-oriented practitioners?

Finally, we attach a copy of a recent report conducted by the Office of CDO in England, which confirms the risk of maintaining business continuity is highest for practices with a majority of revenue from private dental care. This report concludes that a robust and timely support package from government is recommended for dental practices.

We would be grateful if you could confirm your position on providing additional support aimed at private dentistry at your earliest opportunity.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Richard Graham
Chair, NI Dental Practice Committee



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Encs. *Investigation into the resilience of mixed NHS/Private dental practices following the first wave of the COVID-19 Pandemic*

Cc: Mr Robin Swann MLA, Minister of Health; Committee for the Economy; Mr Conor Murphy MLA, Minister of Finance

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