



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



12 August 2021

Dear colleagues,

DOCTORS' AND DENTISTS' REVIEW BODY – CONTRACT/PAY UPLIFT 2021-22

Following successful discussions between Welsh Government and Welsh General Dental Practice Committee, British Dental Association Wales, we want to take this opportunity to jointly write to all parties to update you on the General Dental Service (GDS) contract uplift for 2021-22. This will be a full 3% increase backdated to 1 April 2021.

The Doctors' and Dentists' Review Body (DDRB) again restricted their recommendation to the uplift in pay net of expenses. If the same formula approach as in previous years had been applied by Welsh Government, using the coefficients and values in Appendix E of the DDRB 2021 report, it would have resulted in an overall increase in GDS contract values of some 2%.

As a matter of course, salaried staff pay increases (Annual Survey for Hours and Earnings (ASHE) data) are normally included in the government's formula calculations. The latest ASHE (2020) figure (given in Appendix E) for dental Staff costs is just 0.3% reflecting actual pay increases last year. We would like to see this sitting at 3% for staff going forward and reflected in the ASHE figures next year.

Furthermore, the DDRB advised they expect that the four governments and the BDA will work together to ensure that the expenses component of contract values is sufficient to protect NHS take-home pay for both providing-performers and associates.

Therefore, recognising the ongoing commitment and hard work of dental practitioners and all practice staff in the delivery of dental services, the Minister for Health and Social Services has agreed an additional £1.9m special investment on top of the pay uplift element of 3% in order to ensure GDS contracts are uplifted by a full 3% in 2021-22.

In agreeing this investment, and in recognition of the vital role of the wider workforce in the ongoing delivery of general dental services, we share the Minister's expectation that the 3% GDS contract uplift is passed on in terms of the pay increases for dental teams contracted or employed in delivering NHS dental services.

The Statements of Financial Entitlement will now be amended to reflect the increase, backdated to 1 April 2021. We'll let you know when this has been actioned.

The non-consolidated NHS Wales bonus (gross £735) awarded in recognition of NHS practitioners' contribution to the pandemic is entirely separate from the DDRB award, and bonus payments can be expected in August.

There continue to be complex and wide-ranging areas of consideration across the whole of dentistry, including the community dental service, all of which have seen significant stressors during the pandemic. We remain committed to working collectively with a view to building on the collaborative approach adopted during the pandemic period to support dental teams in providing the best care possible for NHS patients.

Yours sincerely



Alex Slade
Deputy Director
Primary Care Division
Welsh Government



Russell Gidney
Chair, Welsh General Dental Practitioners
Committee
British Dental Association Wales