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Via email:
northernirelandoffice@bda.org

General Dental & Ophthalmic Services

Email: leanne.thompson@health.n-i.gov.uk

Our ref:

Date: 19 November 2025

Dear Tristen,

General Dental Services Activity Enhancement Payment 2025/26

I am writing in regard to the £1.6 million additional funding that has been allocated to General Dental Services (GDS) for the 2025/26 financial year. This funding is intended to support practitioners who continue to provide Health Service dental care.

We are currently considering the eligibility criteria and most appropriate way to allocate this funding to those practitioners who are treating Health Service patients. This will involve some exploratory work and analysis of practice data, as well as consideration of the feedback received regarding the allocation of National Insurance Contributions funding. I will contact you again once this work is completed and a decision has been made.

The current intention is that these payments will contribute to gross earnings for the purposes of superannuation, maternity/paternity leave, adoption leave, long-term sickness absence, and other payments as outlined in Determinations III, V, and VI of the Statement of Dental Remuneration (SDR).

Please note that as the payments will be superannuable there will be employee contributions associated. The total funding available is £1.6 million and includes employer contributions, which will affect the final amount received by General Dental Practitioners (GDPs) this year.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'LThompson', with a stylized, cursive script.

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