

FROM THE MINISTER OF HEALTH



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Dear *Tristen*

Further to our meeting on 22 January, I wish to advise you that I have approved an approach that will enable 2025/26 arrears payments to be made to General Dental Practitioners over the coming months, earlier than the timetable previously indicated.

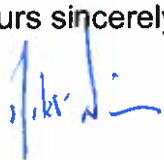
I have instructed BSO to issue the first stage of these payments in **March 2026**, with the remainder to be paid between **April and June 2026**. Full details of the payment schedule are provided at Annex A.

This payment schedule is being implemented on a strictly exceptional, one-off basis, reflecting the particular circumstances of this year's pay uplift. It does not constitute a precedent for future pay awards, which will continue to be delivered under established procedures and standard timelines.

My officials will continue to work in collaboration with BSO to support clear and timely communication with the profession and ensure effective implementation of the payment arrangements. Officials will also examine the end-to-end process for implementing the pay uplift for GDPs, and consider how it can be improved so that future years' arrears payments can be made at the earliest practicable point.

Your patience as BSO works to deliver these payments within the revised timelines is very much appreciated, and I would welcome your support in communicating this message to the profession.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mike Nesbitt', written over a faint horizontal line.

Mike Nesbitt MLA
Minister of Health