



Stuart Geddes
National Director
British Dental Association Wales
Floor 4
2 Caspian Point
Cardiff Bay
CF10 4DQ

25 July 2011

Dear Stuart

Dental contract value uplifts for 2011/12

Following our meeting in April, I am now in a position to confirm the Welsh Government's decision regarding the uplift of dental contracts for 2011/12.

The determination is that there will be no increase to net GDP pay in 2011/12. This is in line with wider public sector pay policy. However existing contract values will be increased by 0.5% backdated to 1 April, largely to fund pay increases for practice staff earning less than £21,000 a year, again in line with the Welsh Government's public sector pay policy and with the requirement for the rest of the NHS. The NHS advised that their pressures were of the order 4-6% but has received no uplift in 2011/12. They are therefore expected to make efficiency savings of that order to manage within resources.

As part of the arrangements for 2011/12 we expect to work with the profession and LHBs to deliver improvements in the following areas. You will see that much of this reflects best practice.

NICE guidelines on recall

The GDS and PDS regulations require dentists to deliver care to patients in accordance with NICE guidelines and since April 2010 there has been a requirement to record the recommended recall interval on the FP17 form or its equivalent electronic version. There is evidence that some patients are being recalled more frequently than is necessary and we want to work with dental contractors to promote the application of current NICE guidance on dental recall intervals. I will shortly be writing to all contractors about this and we will also be working with LHBs to review data provided

by NHS Dental Service where a high number of patients are being recalled after short intervals.

Quality Assurance System

The completion of QAS self assessment forms by contractors is already widespread and we wish to see this taken up by all practitioners when a new QAS form is introduced in September.

National Oral Health Action Plan/Delivering Better Oral Health

As part of the National Oral Health Action Plan which we expect to launch for consultation later in the year, we propose to produce an evidence based toolkit for prevention along the lines of the Department of Health's Delivering Better Oral Health document. Once this has been published in Wales dentists will be expected to adopt the best practice in the toolkit and we will be introducing changes to the FP17W to reflect the requirement that this has been carried out.

These changes are in line with the Welsh Labour manifesto 2011 and have been agreed by the Minister for Health and Social Services. We are currently working on revising the Statements of Financial Entitlement and we will aim to implement the 0.5% uplift at the beginning of September.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Thomas', with a large, stylized flourish above the name.

David Thomas
Chief Dental Officer