

## **WGDPC Chair update to LDCs**

**17<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

This week colleagues in England learned of their abatements to their NHS contracts. The full details can be found here ([https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2020/03/C0603-Dental-preparedness-letter\\_July-2020.pdf](https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2020/03/C0603-Dental-preparedness-letter_July-2020.pdf)). The headlines see an abatement of 16.75% for 1<sup>st</sup> April to 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020, for comparison at this time in Wales our abatement was 20% with the requirement to keep practices open for face to face care, unlike in England. Colleagues in England see a return to 100% of contract value from June 8<sup>th</sup> but will have to achieve 20% of their equivalent monthly activity going forward.

Whilst we know health is devolved, this disparity in ongoing abatement is unfair and undervalues the care we have provided in Wales. Whilst it is appreciated that the Wales recovery year lasts until the end of March 2021, colleagues in England are yet to learn of their fate after September 2020. I have written to Welsh Government, on behalf of WGDPC to raise our concerns, and will aim to keep all updated.

Details have also been received this week in a letter from the CDO on deadlines to be able to provide AGP in practice, or face being moved to 80% of contract value, with 90% for those providing AGP on their own patients and up to 100% for those acting as a UDC and taking referrals from others. My view is that full reinstatement of contract value will be the best way of enabling colleagues to provide AGP, and this has been made clear to Welsh Government.

Questions have also arisen around where lab fees lie within the abated contract values, in addition to the value of PPE provision during Amber phase. We also this week received FAQ from Welsh Government on ACORN ([https://dental.walesdeanery.org/sites/default/files/faqs\\_acorn\\_version1.0\\_002.pdf](https://dental.walesdeanery.org/sites/default/files/faqs_acorn_version1.0_002.pdf))

Tom Bysouth

Chair, WGDPC