

21 March 2012

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General Dental Practice Committee
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Dear John

Dental Contract Uplifts

I am pleased to be able to confirm in writing the Government's determination for the dental contracts uplift for 2012/13. The Secretary of State for Health has agreed that we can implement the package of changes we have been discussing, which will put better care for patients and more effective use of NHS resources at the centre of 2012/13 GDS contract changes.

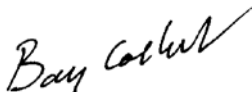
The determination is that there will be no increase to net GDP pay in 2012/13. This is in line with wider public sector pay policy. There will however be an expenses uplift of 0.5 per cent, largely to fund pay increases for practice staff earning less than £21,000 a year, again in line with the Government's public sector pay policy. A national uplift will be applied to gross contract values for GDS contracts and PDS agreements.

As part of this package, dentists will be expected to work closely with local commissioners of care to prepare for moves to a national contract based on capitation, quality and registration; this includes a further move to fully computerised practice systems and a nationally consistent approach to contract management.

The package includes the phasing out of UDA credits for prescription only courses of treatment, which are increasingly difficult to clinically justify, and secures an efficiency and productivity gain from primary dental care which is in line with the requirement for the rest of the NHS. As with other NHS efficiencies, every penny saved will be invested back into patient care, and thus will help to improve further the quality of patient services including primary dental care.

Subject to your acceptance of a revised Statement of Financial Entitlements, we will aim to implement the 0.5% uplift at the end of April. We will work with you on ways of encouraging electronic reporting/computerisation and more consistent contract management, and will consult with you on the introduction of legislation to give effect to the changes to UDA credits.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barry Cockcroft'.

Barry Cockcroft CBE - Chief Dental Officer - England

