



Briefing for the Public Petitions Committee

Petition Number: [PE1809](#)

Main Petitioner: James Millar

Subject: Reinstate continuing professional development allowance for general dental practitioners

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to reverse the withdrawal of NHS general dental practitioner's continuing professional development allowance.

Introduction

Dentists who provide treatment under the NHS are remunerated in accordance with the '[Statement of Dental Remuneration](#)' (SDR).

Under the SDR, dentists who carry out NHS work are entitled to be remunerated for undergoing continuing professional development by attending an approved course. This is called the Continuing Professional Development Allowance (CPDA).

CPDA eligible courses are those which are approved by the Postgraduate Dental Dean of NHS Education for Scotland (NES). Claims are submitted to the Practitioner Services Division of National Services Scotland using a form issued by the organiser of eligible courses.

The level of allowance given for attendance is on a sliding scale in accordance with the proportion of a practice's earnings which are accounted for by NHS work. The maximum amounts that can be claimed are £115.55 for sessions between 1 and 2 hours, and £231.10 for a session of 2 to 3.5 hours. A maximum of £1386.60 can be claimed in a year.

Background

According to the petitioner, on 24 April 2020, NES informed them that the Scottish Government had advised no CPDA claims were to be honoured for courses which took place after lockdown began on the 23 March.

The petitioner states that this contravenes the National Health Service (General Dental Services)(Scotland) Regulations 2010 as they do not allow amendments to the SDR without consultation or for amendments to be

applied retrospectively if it is to the detriment of the person being remunerated.

Scottish Government Action

Dental practices were required to stop carrying out routine dentistry during the initial phase of the COVID-19 lockdown. To help ensure the survival of dental practices, the Scottish Government put in place a package of funding. This was outlined in [a letter to NHS dentists](#) on 30 March, from the Chief Dental Officer:

To support you better during this period, I have revised the funding package, which will now provide 80 percent of the average income from item of service and patient contributions. This funding is additional to the protection provided through capitation and continuing care payments, GDPA, rent reimbursement and commitment payments, which will continue to be paid.

There have been no announcements on the status of the CPD allowance.

Scottish Parliament Action

The Scottish Parliament has not undertaken any work on this topic.

Kathleen Robson

Senior Research (Health and Social Care)

04 August 2020

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