

**GENERAL HEALTHCARE POLICY  
DIRECTORATE**



To: All NI GDPs  
BY EMAIL

General Healthcare Policy  
Directorate  
Room D2.9  
Castle Buildings  
Stormont Estate  
BELFAST  
BT4 3SQ

Email: [gdocorrespondence@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:gdocorrespondence@health-ni.gov.uk)

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**COVID-19: FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO GENERAL DENTAL SERVICES**

Further to my letter dated 3 September 2020, I am writing to advise General Dental Practitioners (GDPs) that the Financial Support Scheme currently in place will continue for a further month, for the October-November payment cycle. The abatement factor will not apply, subject to the current conditions of the scheme being met.

I am aware that you will want to have longer term reassurances around the financial support available for General Dental Services for the rest of the financial year. I can advise that the Minister has made available a further £5m in additional funding to target the reduction in income from patient charges. This matches the £5m of additional funding previously provided to fund the Financial Support Scheme since April 2020.

This is a further significant financial commitment to general dentistry and we will have to ensure that it is allocated in a way that meets our objectives of both supporting the sector in the most effective way possible, as well as addressing the immediate oral health needs of the NI population.

The Department of Health continues to engage with the British Dental Association on the best approach to allocate the available funding and we will endeavour to set out arrangements for the remainder of the year in the near future.

I want to thank you again for your continued commitment to your patients and staff at this very difficult and challenging time.

Yours sincerely



Michael O'Neill  
**Acting Director of General Healthcare Policy**