

## **All GDS Dentists**

2 April 2021

Dear Colleagues

The Health and Social Care Board has recently undergone an audit of the General Dental Services Financial Support Scheme (FSS). One of the audit recommendations is in relation to those Dental practitioners who are in receipt of funding via the current Financial Support Scheme (FSS) and from other Government schemes. To ensure that HSCB addresses its responsibilities and to ensure that no general dental practitioner (GDP) receives duplication of support funding I am writing to you to confirm the following:

### **In respect of practices providing HSC services only**

- The GDS FSS is to support HSC activity only and if a practice is in receipt of this funding no further government support should be applied for in respect of HSC activity.
- Each monthly application must include details of all government funding applications made and government awards received from other sources of business support. Failure to do so may lead to a loss of eligibility to the GDS FSS.

### **In respect of private practices and mixed practices.**

- The eligibility criteria and conditions for the wider business support schemes that have been established in response to the COVID-19 pandemic are not the responsibility of the Department of Health (DoH) in Northern Ireland. However, GDPs wishing to claim for support from such schemes should ensure that this is in relation to private activity only.

I hope this letter has helped clarify the criteria that apply to the GDS FSS funding. The Department of Health are updating the FSS FAQs and these will be issued soon to the profession., If you have any queries in relation to this matter, please forward them to [GDS.Correspondence@hscni.net](mailto:GDS.Correspondence@hscni.net) .

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Denna O'Carolan". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a light-colored background.

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**Mr D O'Carolan**  
**Interim Head of Dental Services, HSCB**