

**From the Acting Chief Dental Officer
Mr Michael Donaldson**



BY EMAIL

Castle Buildings
Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3SQ
Tel:
Email: michael.donaldson@hscni.net
Ref:
Date: 18 June 2020

Dear Colleague

Timing of phases 2 and 3 of GDS re-establishment plan

I'm writing to notify you that, further to my letter of 2 June 2020, I am now able to provide you with dates for Phase 2 and Phase 3 of the re-establishment of general dental services. The dates are:

Phase 2 - Monday, 29 June 2020

Phase 3 – Monday, 20 July 2020

It is important to note that the SARS-CoV2 virus still poses a significant public health threat to the Northern Ireland population. It is therefore essential that dentists closely follow the operational guidance, issued on 5 June 2020, which sets out how practices should prepare for the re-establishment of GDS. Further operational guidance to assist practitioners during Phases 2 and 3 will be emailed to you in the coming days.

Consideration has been given to the results of last week's survey of dental practices which found that there was wide variation in the time required by practices to comply with the 5 June 2020 guidance. It was of particular note that 20% of respondents felt that they were currently compliant with this guidance.

In response, it has been decided to offer a fast-track option to move to Phase 3 from 1 July 2020 onwards for those practices that are able to demonstrate that they meet all the necessary standards to safely offer AGPs and non-urgent/routine care. More details will be provided in the coming days on how practices can demonstrate compliance.

I recognise PPE is a significant and necessary enabler in the move to restore dental services. I am working alongside officials in the Department to agree how we will provide PPE support to you in the context of the broader re-build programme and management of the Pandemic.

The resumption of non-urgent dental activity will require amendments to be made to the temporary Covid-19 financial support arrangements. Further details will be provided in the near future.

Yours sincerely



Michael Donaldson