



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

Health Department
Directorate of Service Policy & Planning

St Andrew's House
Regent Road
EDINBURGH
EH1 3DG

Dear Colleague

GENERAL DENTAL SERVICES - AVAILABILITY

Summary

1. This letter asks Primary Care Trusts and Island NHS Boards to provide to the Scottish Executive information on the availability of NHS general dental services in their areas.

Background

2. NHS: 1992 PCA(D)2, issued on 14 July 1992, required Health Boards to provide, on a weekly basis, information on the availability of general dental service. NHS: 1993 PCA(D)9, issued on 20 August 1993, reduced the frequency of these returns to monthly. However, since the creation of Primary Care Trusts the information provided has reduced and only a few returns continue to be submitted to the Scottish Executive.

3. With the problems being experienced in some parts of Scotland with access to NHS general dental services it is important that the Scottish Executive is kept informed, on a regular basis, of the position regarding availability. Attached to this letter is a form to be used by Primary Care Trusts and Island NHS Boards on a quarterly basis for this purpose.

Action

4. The form A4 should be completed for the quarter ending June 2003 and for each quarter thereafter. All the questions, except question 9, should be answered in respect of information notified to Primary Care Trusts/Island NHS Boards in the previous quarter.

5. If all of the information requested is not available, please complete as much of the form as possible. An explanation of why all of the information is not available can be provided in the general comments, if appropriate.

6. Question 9 asks for running or cumulative totals of the number of dentists who have de-registered patients and the

19 March 2003

Addresses

For action
Chief Executives,
Primary Care NHS Trusts
and Island NHS Boards

For information
Chief Executives, NHS Boards

Chief Executive,
Common Services Agency

Director,
Practitioner Services

Enquiries to:

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number of patients who have been de-registered. The first return, quarter ending June 2003, should show the **total** number since 1 January 2003.

7. Completed forms should be e-mailed to Sheila Taylor at Sheila.S.Taylor@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or faxed on 0131 244 2326 by 12 noon on the first working day following the end of each quarter.

Yours sincerely

DR HAMISH WILSON
Primary Care Division

This form was amended in a letter published on 10th April 2003.

Please [click here](#) to open the amendment.