

Primary and Community Care Directorate
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NHS Chief Executives
NHS Clinical Directors
NHS HR Directors

Copy to Management Steering Group (MSG)

2 March 2010

Dear Colleagues

THE NEW SCOTTISH PUBLIC DENTAL SERVICE

The Review of Primary Care Salaried Dental Service in Scotland published in 2006 recommended that the Community Dental Service (CDS) and Salaried General Dental Services (GDS) should combine to form a new Scottish Public Dental Service.

The CDS and salaried GDS have a range of different terms and conditions of employment. It has therefore been agreed that work needs to be undertaken to align the terms and conditions of existing staff in these two services. A sub-group of the Scottish Joint Negotiating Forum has been set up comprising representatives from the Scottish Government Health Directorates, NHS Employers and the British Dental Association (Scotland) to take forward this work.

The attached Joint Statement from the Scottish Government Health Directorates and the British Dental Association sets out the current position. I would be grateful if you would arrange for this statement to be circulated to all staff who need to be aware of this work. The statement will be available on SHOW and on the BDA website.

Yours sincerely

MARGIE TAYLOR
CHIEF DENTAL OFFICER

THE NEW SCOTTISH PUBLIC DENTAL SERVICE

JOINT STATEMENT FROM SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT HEALTH DIRECTORATES AND THE BRITISH DENTAL ASSOCIATION

The Review of Primary Care Salaried Dental Services in Scotland published in 2006 recommended that the Community Dental Service (CDS) and Salaried General Dental Services (GDS) should combine to form a new Scottish Public Dental Service. Over the past ten years the salaried dental services within Scotland have evolved to include a number of different types of contract to address circumstances in individual areas. Aside from the traditional CDS role and the use of salaried GDS dentists in both rural and urban areas where access to NHS GDS is limited, recent years have also seen the development of various 'joint' and 'split' posts to meet local need. The Review of Primary Care Salaried Dental Services recognised this fact and recommended that a single unified service be established.

You will be aware that the CDS and the salaried GDS dentists have a range of different terms and conditions of employment. In implementing the new Public Dental Service and creating this unified single service it was agreed in 2009 that Scottish Government Health Directorates, NHS employers represented by the Management Steering Group and the British Dental Association would work together to align the terms and conditions of existing staff in the two services. Our aim in working together is to ensure that this new Scottish Public Dental Service is fit for purpose and meets the needs of patients, dentists and NHS Boards.

We are writing to inform you that we are making good progress in our discussions on a new contract for all Scottish salaried dentists. The terms and conditions of employment for salaried dentists in Scotland are some of the last remaining terms and conditions of employment for the NHS workforce to be modernised and we feel that it is timely to address this issue while unifying the service.

We do not envisage that the new contract will produce any significant changes to the clinical aspects of your day to day work. The one issue that has been raised with us repeatedly, and to which we are happy to respond positively, is that a new Scottish Public Dental Service will ensure the special needs components of the existing CDS will continue to be safeguarded as a priority.

Once the new unified terms and conditions of employment have been drafted and agreed, these will be endorsed by the Scottish Government Health Directorates and the Management Steering Group and by a ballot of salaried dentists across Scotland.

We are not working to a set timescale, but feel that we are making good progress in partnership and would hope to write to you again soon with further news of progress.

Signed

Chargé Taylor

Andrew Lamb

Designation Chief Dental Officer

Designation National Director BDA Scotland

Date 22 February 2010

Date 22 February 2010



The Scottish Government

Scottish Government Health Directorates



SCOTLAND