

[By email to Minister of State for Care]

Department of Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU
United Kingdom

Dear Mr Kinnock MP.

I am writing to you to express our concern that no agreement on the contract value uplift for primary care dentistry has been agreed or applied for 2024/25 as of the start of January 2025. This is despite the announcement in July by your colleague, Rt. Hon. Wes Streeting MP Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, of the intention to apply a 6% pay uplift to NHS dental contracts.

This represents a considerable, and unacceptable, delay to dental practices which are already struggling with increased costs and difficulties recruiting and retaining dental staff to work on NHS primary care dental contracts.

The delay between the announced pay uplift and the announcement of an actual contract value uplift (as well as in its application) has caused considerable frustration for colleagues who are trying to focus on providing high quality dental care. At a time when so many people are desperately trying to access NHS dental care, this delay in the application of the contract uplift to meet the costs of this demand sends a very poor message to dentists, other members of the dental team and the public.

The considerable delay also calls into question how the uplift can be effectively and efficiently applied to those who have either ceased working or moved employment in the intervening period.

I urge you to ensure that the uplift is agreed and applied as soon as possible and that in the future there is as little delay as possible between DDRB recommendations and final decisions of contract value uplifts.

Yours sincerely



Mike Clarke
Chair, LDC Confederation