



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## COVID-19 Recovery Committee

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By E-mail:

27 April 2023

Dear

### Recovery of NHS dentistry services

The Scottish Parliament's COVID-19 Recovery Committee ('the Committee') has agreed to undertake an inquiry into the recovery of NHS dentistry services.

The inquiry will scrutinise what action the Scottish Government is taking to return the provision of NHS dentistry services to pre-pandemic levels of activity, as set out in the [NHS Recovery Plan 2021-2026](#).

The Committee plans to take oral evidence on the inquiry from stakeholders in June 2023. The Committee has agreed to write to you in advance of it taking oral evidence to request that you provide the following information in relation to NHS dentistry services in your health board area—

1. How much COVID-related funding did you receive from the Scottish Government to fund the following measures:
  - Ventilation improvements
  - Equipment
  - Variable speed drilling equipment
2. What was the uptake (percentage or number of practices; and amount paid out) of the above funding by General Dentist Service (GDS) dentists?
3. How many practices in your health board area have withdrawn or reduced NHS provision for patients – for example, registering and treating only children:

- No. and % withdrawn completely
  - No. and % reduced provision
4. What impact, if any, has a reduction in NHS GDS provision had on the Public Dental Service?
  5. How many patients are registered with the PDS in your Health Board area? Has the number risen since 2020? If so by how much?
  6. What other funding do you receive to support dentistry in your Health Board area (for example, funding related to PDS, Childsmile and any initiatives to improve recovery of services and access to dentistry for your population)?

I would be grateful if you could provide a response by 26 May 2023. The Committee accepts responses by e-mail to our mailbox: [Covid19.Committee@parliament.scot](mailto:Covid19.Committee@parliament.scot).

Should you have any queries regarding this request, please contact the Committee's clerking team using the contact details provided above.

Yours sincerely,

Jim Fairlie MSP  
Convener  
COVID-19 Recovery Committee