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Date: 26 May 2023

Our ref: CP/NC/VM/letters/0526fairlie

Enquiries to: Valerie Muir

Direct line: | Email:

Mr Jim Fairlie MSP  
Convener  
COVID-19 Recovery Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
EDINBURGH  
EH99 1SP

Dear Mr Fairlie

### **Recovery of NHS Dentistry Services**

Thank you for your letter dated 27 April 2023. Please find noted below the information you requested.

1. How much COVID-related funding did you receive from the Scottish Government to fund the following measures:
  - Ventilation improvements - £340,639
  - Variable speed drilling equipment - £510,958
  - Equipment – No separate funding received, however the balance available from Ventilation & Variable speed drilling equipment funding was - £336,014
  
2. What was the uptake (percentage or number of practices; and amount paid out) of the above funding by General Dentist Service (GDS) dentists?
  - Ventilation improvements: 33 practices (56%) £110,366
  - Equipment: 37 practices (62%) £279, 850
  - Variable speed drilling equipment: 32 practices (54%) £225, 647
  
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 How many practices in your health board area have withdrawn or reduced NHS provision for patients – for example, registering and treating only children:
  - No. and % withdrawn completely: FIVE (8%)
  - No. and % reduced provision: FIVE (8%)



Acting Chair: Alistair Morris  
Chief Executive: Carol Potter

Fife NHS Board is the common name of Fife Health Board

4. What impact, if any, has a reduction in NHS GDS provision had on the Public Dental Service?

- The reduction of NHS GDS provision has impacted greatly on the Public Dental Service we find ourselves in the position of treatment providers for unregistered as well as deregistered patients in Fife.
- The PDS is also focussed on the backlog in our core service due to the pandemic and are currently faced with the challenge of finding a balance between core PDS and GDS provision.
- There has been a rise of unregistered patients calling the Dental advice line seeking emergency care.
- There has also been an increase in registered patients calling when they have been unable to secure an appointment at their registered General Dental Practitioner and also de-registered patients who do not want to go private and therefore have to leave their dental practice.
- At the time of this response there are no GDP's in Fife taking on NHS patients directly and those Dentists who are registering (of which there are only 2) have waiting lists of almost 6 months. We have been unable to recruit Dental Officers into GDS posts.

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?

| 31st Mar<br>2020 | 31st Mar<br>2021 | 31st Mar<br>2022 | 31st Mar<br>2023 |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 19,472           | 19,590           | 20,378           | 21,420           |

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)?

- £80,000 received for supporting the Childsmile Programme with 2.5 WTE staff recruited
- £44,412 on red ring motors and handpieces

I trust this information is helpful. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

**Carol Potter**  
Chief Executive