

## Recovery of NHS Dentistry Services

Declan Gilmore, Director of Dentistry for Tayside will attend to give stakeholder evidence on behalf of NHS Tayside.

The following information has been requested by the Committee:

- 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**

In line with the following Primary Care Administration (PCA) memoranda issued from Scottish Government: PCA(D)(2021)3 – Ventilation allowance payment, PCA(D)(2022)5 – Dental equipment repairs and PCA(D)(2022)6 – Improvement allowance, NHS Tayside distributed its £855,000 total allocation to local independent General Dental Service (GDS) practices as follows:

<b>Total Allocation = £855,000</b>	
Ventilation	£332,000
Variable speed drills	£523,000
Improvement allowance/equipment repair	Remainder of unspent funds

Allocation was £855,000, composing of £332,000 for ventilation and £523,000 for Handpieces. The Board was then allowed to permit spend of any leftover funding on equipment repair/replacement.

- 2. What was the uptake (percentage or number of practices; and amount paid out) of the above funding by General Dentist Service (GDS) dentists?**

	Number of practices	Amount paid out
Ventilation	Taken up by 41/74 practices or 55.4%	£137,544.68
Variable speed drills	Taken up by 31/74 practices or 41.9%	£174,763.42
Improvement allowance	Taken up by 40/74 practices or 54%	£244,725.45

**3. How many practices in your health board area have withdrawn or reduced NHS provision for patients – for example, registering and treating only children: Number and % withdrawn completely and number and % reduced provision**

Tayside status:

- There have been no (0%) complete withdrawals from NHS dentistry.
- There have been 2 practice closures since then (Hillbank and {My} Dentist Fintry)
- There have been 2 practices (or 2.7% of the then 74) convert to seeing children only on the NHS.
- There is also 1 practice currently transitioning to seeing children only (this will translate to 4% of the current 72 practices in Tayside).
- Of 72 practices 36 are working at 90% or below their pre-Covid activity levels.

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

The increased demand for the delivery of urgent care to those not able to access the independent sector are impacting negatively on the staff in post and the ability of the service to deliver care to other priority groups.

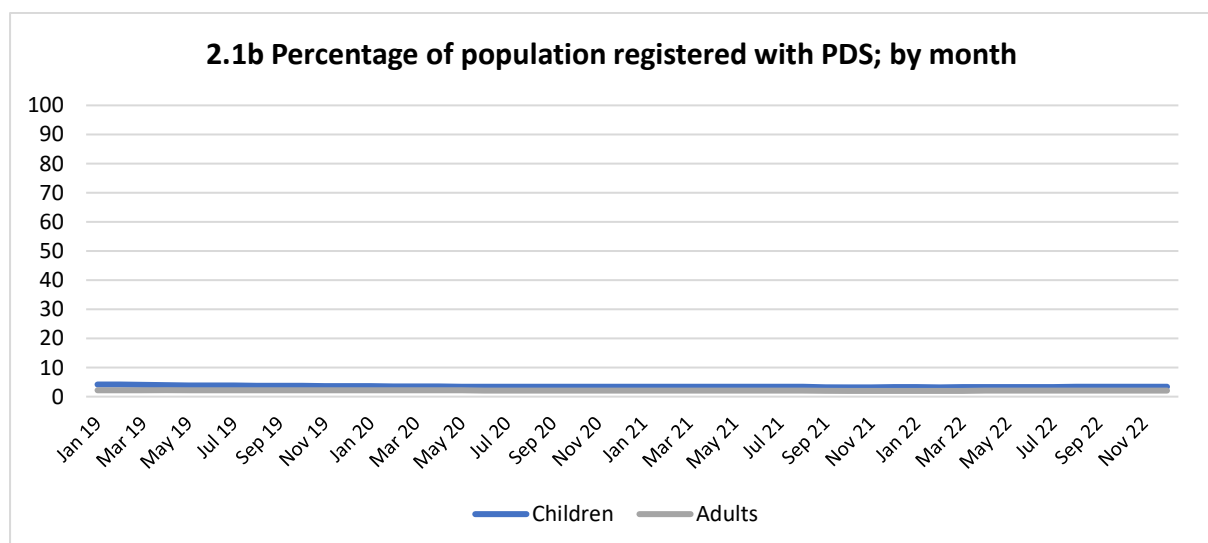
There is an increased demand responding to calls from unregistered and deregistered patients.

Extra demand is placed within the clinical setting as PDS clinicians provide urgent dental care thus reducing the time available to provide care for their core remit patients.

Data from Public Health Scotland (PHS) shows that an increased proportion of claims sent to Practitioner Services are for occasional treatment (a proxy for emergency care).

**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?**

Data from Public health Scotland (PHS) indicates that the numbers registered with the PDS are showing only minor changes.



Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
PDS registration numbers for Tayside	10,610	9,995	9,632	9,357	9,919

The PDS in Tayside is under direct instruction from the Director of Dentistry to register only those that would fit a non-access PDS remit.

PDS have neither the funding nor workforce to register GDS patients.

Previous experience indicates that this negatively impacts on the development of a successful delivery of general dental services within the independent sector.

**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)?**

£99,500 received for Childsmile Expansion Funding a one-off non-recurring payment.

SDAI Funding - this has just been awarded to certain areas within Tayside Health Board and measuring any positive impact on access to NHS dental care within GDS will take some time.