



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

COVID-19 Recovery Committee

Michael Matheson MSP
Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery,
Health and Social Care
Scottish Government

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By E-mail:

27 April 2023

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

Recovery of NHS dentistry services

At its meeting on 27 April 2023, the COVID-19 Recovery Committee ('the Committee') agreed its approach to an inquiry into the recovery of NHS dentistry services.

The inquiry will consider what action is being taken by the Scottish Government 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 evidence in June and has agreed to write to the Scottish Government in advance to request an update on the actions being taken by the Scottish Government on the recovery of NHS dentistry services.

The Committee requests an update on the following—

1. How much of the Scottish Government's funding for ventilation and equipment was distributed to dentists in grant payments in each health board?
2. What engagement has the Scottish Government had with the sector to seek feedback on the ventilation and equipment funding it made available?

3. What impact have multipliers and sustainability payments had on the recovery of services?
4. What evaluation has the Scottish Government undertaken of the funding it made available to dentists to improve ventilation and equipment (including the eligibility criteria, uptake distribution and implementation); and evaluation of the impact of sustainability payments and multipliers?
5. What metrics is the Scottish Government using to monitor and measure access to dentistry services in the recovery period? What do these figures show?
6. Has the Scottish Government realised its ambition to return NHS dentistry services to pre-pandemic levels? If not, when does it anticipate this ambition will be realised?
7. What action is the Scottish Government taking to target the recovery of services in communities where participation levels are lowest?
8. What are the barriers to realising the recovery of NHS dentistry services and how is the Scottish Government addressing these?
9. What is the status and progress on Oral Health Improvement Plan pre and post pandemic (i.e., Jan 2018 – April 2023)?

I would be grateful if you could provide a response by close on 26 May 2023. The Committee accepts correspondence by e-mail to our mailbox:
Covid19.Committee@Parliament.Scot.

Yours sincerely,

Jim Fairlie MSP
Convener
COVID-19 Recovery Committee