

**GENERAL HEALTHCARE POLICY
DIRECTORATE**



To: All NI General Dental Practitioners
BY EMAIL

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Date: 9 March 2023

GENERAL DENTAL SERVICES SUPPORT

As outlined in my letter of 24 February 2023, the GDS Rebuilding Support Scheme was due to close at the end of the 2022/23 financial year. However, the need for ongoing support has been considered and I am now able to advise that the 10% enhancement to Item of Services fees will continue to be available until the end of Q1 2023/24, with a further review taking place that will consider the position for the full year.

I understand that uncertainty over longer term arrangements causes issues for practices, however due to the current financial challenges facing the Department it is not possible to provide a further commitment at this time. Further information regarding a decision on full year support will follow when available.

I can also advise, that the Enhanced Children's Examination fee, that was implemented in January 2023, will also be extended for a further three months to help address the decrease in registration levels for young children. It is anticipated that this funding stream will cease at the end of Q1 due to the unprecedented financial pressures facing the Department.

Yours sincerely



Michael O'Neill
General Dental & Ophthalmic Services

Cc: Caroline Lappin, Chief Dental Officer
Robbie Davis, Director of General Healthcare Policy Directorate
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