



Department
of Health &
Social Care

Dental & Eye Care Services
Department of Health & Social Care
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29th March 2021

Dear Prototype Practices

You will have recently seen communications from NHSEI, also signed by Jo Churchill, the Minister with responsibility for dentistry, regarding arrangements for NHS dentistry in the 21/22 financial year. This letter included references to the dental contract reform programme and the future of the dental contract.

Over the last year we have engaged with you and shared data from the last 3 years of prototyping, which has suggested that there would be significant challenges in implementing the current prototype model more widely. As you know, these challenges include a lack of evidence that if implemented the contract would maintain dental access, reduce oral health inequalities and offer overall sustainability within available resources for the NHS.

There is a continued Ministerial and NHSEI commitment to reform the current dental contract towards one that improves patient access, has a strong prevention focus, improves oral health, offers value for money for the NHS and is designed in conjunction with, and is attractive for, the profession. That is why we have committed to publish the results of the evaluation this summer, which lay out the evidence of both positive findings and the challenges.

I want to stress that your continued commitment to the reform programme over the years has been invaluable and your ongoing participation has enabled us to gather vital data and learning, which will inform the next stage of the reform process.

We want to build on the learning from the prototypes, so it is right that we take stock before planning the design of the next phase. Please be assured that as soon as we are clearer on what this means for prototype practices, we will communicate this to you.

Thank you again for your support and participation to date.

Yours faithfully,

Alette Addison
Head of Dental and Eye Care Services