

Annex A: Letter to BDA

*Skipton House
80 London Road
London
SE1 6LH*

14 March 2013
Dr John Milne
Chair
General Dental Practice Committee
British Dental Association
64 Wimpole Street
London
W1G 8YS

Tel: 02079722323

Dear John

Dental Contract Uplifts

I am pleased to be able to confirm in writing the Government's determination for the dental contracts uplift for 2013/14. The Secretary of State for Health has agreed that we can implement the package of changes we have been discussing, which will put better care for patients and more effective use of NHS resources at the centre of 2013/14 GDS contract and PDS agreement changes.

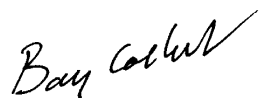
The determination is that there will be a 1% increase to net GDP pay in 2013/14. This is in line with wider public sector pay policy. There will, however, be a gross uplift of 1.5 per cent to allow for increased practice expenses. A national uplift will be applied to gross contract values for GDS contracts and PDS agreements.

As part of this package, dentists will be expected to continue to work closely with the Department and the NHS Commissioning Board to prepare for moves to a national contract based on capitation, quality and registration; this includes a further move to fully computerised practice systems and a nationally consistent approach to contract management.

The package includes: changes to the way the NHS will manage dental contracts at the end of the 13/14 financial year; measures to ensure more appropriate patterns of referral between dentists both within primary care and to acute services. There will also be a freeze in Vocational Trainee salaries for 2013/14. As with other NHS efficiencies, every penny saved will be invested back into patient care, and thus will help to improve further the quality of patient services including primary dental care.

Subject to your acceptance of a revised Statement of Financial Entitlements, we will aim to implement the 1.5% uplift at the end of April. We will work with you on ways of encouraging electronic reporting/computerisation and to implement the new contract management systems with the NHS Commissioning Board, and will consult with you on the introduction of legislation to give effect to the changes to referrals within primary care.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barry Cockcroft', is written over a white background.

Barry Cockcroft CBE
Chief Dental Officer - England