

GENERAL DENTAL SERVICES STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ENTITLEMENTS

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1. Introduction

1.1 The Secretary of State for Health gives the directions set out in this Statement of Financial Entitlements (“SFE”) in exercise of the powers conferred by section 28N and 126(4) of the National Health Service Act 1977¹. In accordance with section 28N(4) of the 1977 Act, she has consulted both with the bodies appearing to her to be representative of persons to whose remuneration these directions relate and with such other persons as she thinks appropriate.

1.2 This SFE relates to the payments to be made by PCTs to a contractor under a GDS contract.

1.3 The directions set out in this SFE are subordinate legislation for the purposes of section 23 of the Interpretation Act 1978, and accordingly, in this SFE, unless the context otherwise requires—

- (a) words or expressions used both here and in the 1977 Act bear the meaning they bear in the 1977 Act;
- (b) references to legislation (i.e. Acts and subordinate legislation) are to that legislation as amended, extended or applied, from time to time;
- (c) words importing the masculine gender include the feminine gender, and *vice versa* (and words importing the neuter gender also include the masculine and feminine gender); and
- (d) words in the singular include the plural, and *vice versa*.

1.4 This SFE is divided into Sections, Parts, paragraphs, sub-paragraphs and heads. A Glossary of some of the words and expressions used in this SFE is provided in Section 13. Words and expressions defined in that Section are often highlighted by initial capital letters.

1.5 At various points in this SFE, reference is made to a dental practitioner being “employed or engaged” by a contractor (or by a pilot scheme provider or a provider of services under section 35 of the 1977 Act). In this SFE, “employed or engaged”, in relation to a dental practitioner’s relationship with a contractor (or a pilot scheme provider etc.) includes, in addition to dental practitioners who have a contract of service or for services with the contractor—

- (a) a dental practitioner who is the contractor;
- (b) a dental practitioner who is a partner in a contractor that is a partnership; and

¹ 1977 c.49. Section 28N was inserted by section 172 of the Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003 (c.43). Section 126(4) has been amended by section 65(2) of the National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990 (c.19), paragraph 37 of Schedule 4 to the Health Act 1999 (c.8) and paragraph 5(13)(b) of Schedule 5 to the Health and Social Care Act 2001 (c.15).

(c) a dental practitioner who is a director of a dental corporation.

1.6 The directions given in this SFE apply in relation to England only. They were authorised to be given, and by an instrument in writing, on behalf of the Secretary of State for Health, by Chris Audrey, a member of the Senior Civil Service, on 29 March 2006, and shall come into force on 1st April 2006.

1.7 Although not part of the directions given in this SFE, included in Annex 1, for ease of reference, is a determination made under regulation 13(17) of the Performers Lists Regulations, which is the Performer Lists (Suspended Dentists' NHS Earnings) Determination 2006. The determination relates to all NHS dental practitioners providing primary dental services, whether under a PDS agreement, a GDS contract or PCT led arrangements – and deals with possible entitlement to payments from a PCT, and the amount of such payments, during a dental practitioner's suspension from a PCT's Dental Performers List.

1.8 This SFE may be revised at any time, in certain circumstances with retrospective effect.¹ For the most up-to-date information, contact the Dental and Ophthalmic Services Division, the Department of Health, New King's Beam House, 22 Upper Ground, London SE1 9BW, or visit the following web-site: www.dh.gov.uk.

¹ See section 28N(3)(e) of the NHS Act 1977.

PART 1

ANNUAL CONTRACT VALUES

2. Calculated Annual Contract Values

2.1 This section applies in circumstances where a contractor, or the Dentist Performers that are employed or engaged by a contractor, were providing services under section 35 of the 1977 Act prior to 1st April 2006.

2.1 A Calculated Annual Contract Value (“CACV”) is an amount based essentially on historic earnings derived from fees and allowances under the Statement of Dental Remuneration (“SDR”) which were received by the dentists who are employed or engaged by the contractor. It is intended that calculations based on this amount will be used to protect income levels for a three year period, starting on 1st April 2006. The arrangements set out in this Section are therefore due to end on 31st March 2009.

Entitlement to a Calculated Annual Contract Value

2.2 A contractor is only entitled to payments based on a CACV if–

- (a) it is entitled to a GDS contract by virtue of Part 2 of the First Transitional Provisions Order;
- (b) its GDS contract is entered into pursuant to that Part and the number of units–
 - (i) of dental activity to be provided by the contractor is determined in accordance with article 10(2) to (7) of the First Transitional Provisions Order, and
 - (ii) where applicable, of orthodontic activity to be provided by the contractor is determined in accordance with article 11(2) to (5) of the First Transitional Provisions Order;
- (c) its GDS contract takes effect for payment purposes on 1st April 2006; and
- (d) thereafter (as a continuing entitlement condition), its GDS contract is not varied to change the number of units of dental activity or, where applicable, orthodontic activity to be undertaken by the contractor.

Baseline numbers of units of dental and orthodontic activity

2.3 Each GDS contract must specify the number of units of dental activity to be provided by the contractor and, if the contract includes provision for orthodontic services, the number of units of orthodontic activity to be provided by the contractor (regulations 17 and 18 of the GDS Contracts Regulations). In the case of contractors

who are entitled to payments based on a CACV, for the start of the financial year 2006 to 2007, a calculation must be made—

- (a) of a baseline number of units of dental activity, which is to be calculated in accordance with article 10(2) to (7) of the First Transitional Provisions Order (based on data in respect of the year ending on 30th September 2005). The total number of units of dental activity determined in accordance with article 10(2) to (7) is the contractor's Baseline Number of Units of Dental Activity (BNUDA); and
- (b) if the contract includes the provision of orthodontic services, of a baseline number of units of orthodontic activity, which is to be calculated in accordance with article 11(2) to (5) of the First Transitional Provisions Order (based on data in respect of the year ending on 30th September 2005). The total number of units of orthodontic activity determined in accordance with article 11(2) to (5) is the contractor's Baseline Number of Units of Orthodontic Activity (BNUOA).

Requirement to establish the contractor's first CACV

2.4 Once the contractor's BNUDA and BNUOA have been established for the financial year 2006 to 2007, the PCT will need to establish the first value of the contractor's CACV. The first value of the contractor's CACV is the amount that is properly attributable, with regard to the year ending 30th September 2005, to the contractor's BNUDA and any BNUOA that it has, subject (where appropriate) to the adjustments that are set out below. This amount is to be determined by as follows.

Calculation of the baseline value of the contractor's CACV

2.5 Firstly, the PCT is to establish the earnings received by the dentists who are employed or engaged by the contractor, (that is, the gross amounts paid to them) between 1st October 2004 and 30th September 2005 inclusive ("the baseline year") pursuant to the following provisions of the SDR (seniority is dealt with separately)—

- (a) Determination I (scale of fees), including Annex I to that Determination;
- (b) Determination V (commitment payments);
- (c) Determination VIII (continuing professional development allowances);
- (d) Determination X (clinical audit allowances).

2.6 This initial baseline value is then to be subject, potentially, to four types of adjustment to produce the first value of the contractor's CACV.

Vocational Trainee earnings adjustment

2.7 Where a dentist who is employed or engaged by the contractor was a Trainer during all or part of the baseline year, a deduction must be made from the earnings received pursuant to Determination I during the baseline year so as to exclude receipts from earnings properly attributable to any Vocational Trainees for whom the Trainer was responsible during the baseline year (i.e. item of service fees earned by the Vocational Trainees). The units of activity associated with these earnings should also have been removed from the calculation of the contractor's BNUDA and, where applicable, BNUOA.

Practice configuration adjustment

2.8 In determining the contractor's BNUDA and, where applicable, BNUOA, the PCT may take into account changes to the configuration of the dental practice which the contractor was, or which the dentists who are employed or engaged by the contractor worked for, during the baseline year. Examples of factors that may be taken into account include: vacancies or absences during the baseline period; movement of associates during the baseline period; mergers or splits during the baseline period; and practices being newly established during the baseline period. Where the PCT adjusts a contractor's BNUDA or, where applicable, BNUOA, to take account of this type of configuration change, a parallel adjustment must also be made to the baseline value of the contractor's CACV.

2.9 Where one or more of the dentists employed or engaged by the contractor has received gross GDS earnings of more than £1,000 during the baseline year in respect of recalled attendance, an adjustment will be made to the contractor's BNUDA or BNUOA to take account of the fact that the provision of out of hours services has become the responsibility of the PCT from 1st April 2006. However, there should be no changes to the baseline value of a contractor's CACV, as part of the practice configuration adjustment, to reflect this change in responsibility.

Time lag adjustments

2.10 Any changes in accordance with paragraphs 2.7 to 2.9 will have reflected parallel adjustments in the calculation of the contractor's BNUDA and, where applicable BNUOA. There is a further adjustment to the contract value that is unrelated to the BNUDA and BNUOA calculations, known as the time lag adjustments.

2.11 The time lag adjustments are adjustments to the baseline value of a contractor's CACV, as adjusted in accordance with paragraphs 2.7 to 2.9. The underlying purpose of these adjustments is to ensure that a calculation based on cash receipts in the baseline period is adjusted to an appropriate level for resource accounting purposes, and to reflect the delay between the end of the baseline period and the start of the financial year 2006 to 2007. Accordingly, the aim of these adjustments is to produce an appropriate baseline value for the financial year 2006 to 2007.

2.12 The manner of these adjustments will depend on the way in which the baseline value of the contractor's CACV, as adjusted in accordance with paragraphs 2.7 to 2.9, is actually or notionally based on different payments under the SDR. This is because

different time lag adjustments are appropriate for different payments. The Department of Health has produced guidance on to what extent, and if so how, it considers that the elements that make up the baseline value of a contractor's CACV, as adjusted in accordance with paragraphs 2.7 to 2.9, should be adjusted to produce an appropriate baseline values for the financial year 2006 to 2007.

2006/7 Adjustment

2.13 It is intended to uplift the amount determined in accordance with paragraph 2.11 following consideration of a recommendation of the Doctors' and Dentists' Review Body (DDRB) Report 2006. In practice, and in accordance with entry 1(b) of column 2 in the Schedule to the Functions Regulations, this adjustment will be made by the NHS BSA on a national basis, after the PCT has loaded the contractor's annual contract value (not including the 2006/7 Adjustment) onto its computerised payment systems. The PCT must not, therefore, adjust the amounts that it loads into the NHS BSA's computerised payment systems by the 2006/7 Adjustment.

First CACV

2.14 The contractor's initial baseline value for its CACV, as adjusted (as appropriate) in accordance with paragraphs 2.7 to 2.12, is the first value of the contractor's CACV. For the financial year 2006 to 2007, this amount is to form the basis of the contractor's Monthly Annual Contract Value Payments ("Monthly ACVPs"), subject to the following provisions of this Part.

Second and third CACVs

2.15 It is intended that, at the start of the financial year 2007 to 2008 and the financial year 2008 to 2009, the Monthly ACVPs of any contractor entitled to payments based on a CACV will be uprated. It is intended that this SFE will be amended so that—

- (a) for the start of the financial year 2007 to 2008, a 2007/8 Adjustment, which will be the uprating factor for that financial year, will be included in it; and
- (b) for the start of the financial year 2008 to 2009, a 2008/9 Adjustment, which will be the uprating factor for that financial year, will be included in it.

2.16 The first of these Adjustments will be used to uprate the first value of a contractor's CACV, producing for that contractor a second value of its CACV, and the second of these Adjustments will be used to uprate the second value of its CACV to produce a third value. The second and third values of the contractor's CACVs will then be used to calculate the contractor's Monthly ACVPs for the financial year to which they relate (i.e. the second value for the financial year 2007 to 2008 and the third value for the financial year 2008 to 2009), subject to the following provisions of this Part.

2.17 In practice, and in accordance with entry 1(b) of column 2 in the Schedule to the Functions Regulations, the 2007/8 Adjustment and the 2008/9 Adjustment will be factored into Monthly ACVPs by the NHS BSA on a national basis. The PCT must not itself, therefore, adjust the amounts that it has loaded into the NHS BSA's computerised payment systems by these adjustments.

3. Negotiated Annual Contract Values

3.1 Except where the contractor remains entitled to a CACV and is paid on that basis, payments under the a GDS contract in respect of the agreed number of units of dental activity and orthodontic activity specified in the contract is to be based on a Negotiated Annual Contract Value (NACV).

NACVs for new GDS contracts

3.2 As regards new GDS contracts, if–

- (a) the contractor is not entitled to payments based on a CACV (which includes new providers, and will be the case for all contractors from 1st April 2009); or
- (b) the contractor is entitled to payments based on a CACV but agrees with its PCT, in accordance with–
 - (i) article 10(8) of the First Transitional Provisions Order to vary the number of units of dental activity that it will provide from its BNUDA, or
 - (ii) article 11(6) of the First Transitional Provisions Order to vary the number of units of orthodontic activity that it will provide from its BNUOA,

or both,

the PCT and the contractor must agree, in respect of the first financial year during which the GDS contract has effect, a NACV for GDS contract, based on the number of units of dental activity and, where applicable, orthodontic activity that the contractor is required to provide under its GDS contract.

3.3 If the contractor's GDS contract takes effect for payment purposes after the start of the financial year, the first NACV for that contract (which will relate to the rest of that financial year) shall be an annualised amount for calculation purposes, even though only a proportion of that annualised amount will in fact be payable in the first part year.

NACVs for GDS contracts that replace services provided under section 35 of the 1977 Act

3.4 If a contractor would have been entitled to a CACV had it not contracted to provide fewer units of dental or orthodontic activity than would have been taken into account in the calculation of its CACV, its NACV must be lower than its CACV would have been by an amount that reflects any reduced level of activity.

NACVs for GDS contracts that replace pilot scheme agreements

3.5 If the contractor provided services under a pilot scheme agreement, it is likely that the agreement value for its pilot scheme agreement will form the basis of the negotiation of its NACV. In such circumstances, as part of process of ensuring that the GDS contract represents value for money, the PCT is to have regard to the following factors when negotiating the NACV–

- (a) the annual (or annualised) agreement value for the pilot scheme agreement during the financial year 2005 to 2006, uprated by the 2006/7 Adjustment mentioned in paragraph 2.13, is to provide the benchmark value for the contractor’s NACV;
- (b) adjustments may need to be made to that benchmark value to take account of changes to the configuration of the contractor and to exclude receipts, in the financial year 2005 to 2006, from earnings properly attributable to Vocational Trainees (but also, a suitable number of units of dental activity may have been added to the contractor’s total for the year to reflect the additional services that will be provided as a result of employing a Vocational Trainee);
- (c) the payments for specific purposes under Part 2 should be deemed sufficient for those purposes, and so any amount in respect of those purposes that was included in the calculation of the annual agreement value for the pilot scheme agreement should be excluded from the calculation of the contractor’s NACV;
- (d) the annual agreement value of the pilot scheme agreement may also have had built into it other amounts that are separately remunerated under the GDS contract, and these amounts should also be excluded from the calculation of the contractor’s NACV. It is also possible that the pilot scheme agreement may have had built into it costs in respect of employer’s superannuation contributions under the NHS pension scheme. If this is the case, those amounts should also be excluded from the calculation of the contractor’s NACV, as PCTs will be responsible for any employer’s superannuation contributions of dentist performers under the NHS pension scheme. The PCT has an overriding duty to take all reasonable steps to ensure that it does not remunerate–
 - (i) twice for the same item of expenditure under the GDS contract, or
 - (ii) under the GDS contract for items of expenditure that are separately remunerated elsewhere.

New or first NACVs where a GDS contract is revised

3.6 If the number of units of dental activity or, where applicable, orthodontic activity that a contractor is required to provide under its GDS contract is revised, a new or (in the case of a contractor whose Monthly ACVPs before the variation were based on a CACV) first NACV will have to be established for that contractor. If the variation takes effect during the financial year, the new or revised NACV for that contract (which will relate to the rest of that financial year) shall be an annualised amount for calculation purposes, even though only a proportion of that annualised amount will in fact be payable for the first part year.

Annual uprating of NACVs

3.6 If –

- (a) at the start of a financial year, a contractor was in receipt of Monthly ACVPs in respect of the last month of the previous financial year which were based on a NACV;
- (b) the number of units of both dental activity and, where appropriate, orthodontic activity that the contractor is required to provide in the new financial year is unchanged from the previous financial year,

the amount of its NACV for the new financial year is to be uprated by a percentage amount to be determined by the Secretary of State.

3.7 It is intended that at the start of each financial year this SFE will be amended so as to include that percentage increase, which in the case of the financial years 2007 to 2008 and 2008 to 2009, will be the same as the 2007/8 Adjustment and the 2008/9 Adjustment mentioned in paragraph 2.15. In practice, these adjustments will be factored into Monthly ACVPs by the NHS BSA on a national basis. The PCT must not itself, therefore, adjust the amounts that it has loaded into the NHS BSA's computerised payment systems by these adjustments.

4. Payment of Monthly Annual Contract Value Payments

4.1 At any point, there should be in respect of each GDS contract a CACV, determined in accordance with Section 2, or a NACV, determined in accordance with Section 3. This, in all cases, is to be an annual (or annualised) amount, and is to provide the basis for the calculation of the Monthly ACVPs payable under the contract in respect of the units of dental activity and, where applicable, orthodontic activity that the contractor is required to provide. This CACV or NACV is known as the Actual Annual Contract Value (AACV) of that contract at that point.

Initial value of Monthly ACVPs

4.2 The first initial value of a contractor's Monthly ACVPs is to be determined for the date on which its GDS contract takes effect for payment purposes. Once the

contractor's AACV has been established, that amount is to be divided by twelve, and subject to paragraph 4.3, the result is the first initial value of the contractor's Monthly ACVPs.

4.3 If the contractor's GDS contract took effect for payment purposes other than on the first day of a month, the initial value of its Monthly ACVPs in respect of the first part-month of its contract is to be produced by dividing—

- (a) the number of days during the month for which the agreement has effect for payment purposes; by
- (b) the total number of days in that month.

4.4 That initial value (expressed as a monthly value, in cases where a contract took effect for payment purposes other than on the first day of the month) will remain the basis for the calculation of the net value of the contractor's Monthly ACVPs, until that initial value is next revised.

Revision of the initial value of Monthly ACVPs

4.5 The initial value of a contractor's Monthly ACVPs will have to be revised where, for any reason, its AACV is revised (for example, to take account of annual uprating or where the contractor's specified number of units of dental or orthodontic activity is changed).

4.6 If the contractor's AACV is revised for the start of a month, the new initial value of its Monthly ACVPs (until its AACV is next revised again) is its new AACV divided by twelve. If its AACV changes during a month, the initial value of its Monthly ACVPs (until its AACV is next revised again)—

- (a) for the month after the month during which its AACV changed, is its AACV divided by 12; or
- (b) for the month during which its AACV changed, is the aggregate of the following amounts—
 - (i) the amount produced by dividing the number of days during the month before the change by the total number of days in that month, and multiplying that fraction by the old initial value of the contractor's Monthly ACVPs, plus
 - (ii) the amount produced by dividing the number of days during the month for which the contractor had a new AACV by the total number of days in that month, and multiplying that fraction by the new initial value of the contractor's Monthly ACVPs.

4.7 Once the initial value of a contractor's Monthly ACVPs has been established for any particular month, the PCT must go on to establish the net value of the contractor's Monthly ACVPs, which is the amount actually to be paid.

Deductions in respect of NHS charges

4.8 Patients in receipt of relevant dental treatment have to pay charges in respect of that treatment under the NHS Charges Regulations, unless they are exempt from paying the charge by virtue of either Schedule 12ZA to the 1977 Act or the NHS Charges Regulations. Charges are recoverable under those Regulations in respect of specified types of treatment.

4.9 It is the contractor who collects the NHS charges from those patients. Furthermore, in accordance with its contract condition set by virtue of paragraph 38 of Schedule 3 to the GDS Contracts Regulations, the contractor is required to make returns of information to the PCT within specified time periods about the courses of NHS treatment it provides, and in those returns it has to provide information about whether an NHS charge was payable in respect of that treatment.

4.10 Using the paragraph 38 returns which have been submitted by the contractor by a particular date each month (known as the “scheduling date”, which is to be set by the PCT) since the scheduling date in the previous month, the PCT will make a determination of the amount to be deducted that month in respect of NHS charges that the contractor should have collected in respect of treatment that has counted or will count towards the number of units of dental activity or, where applicable, orthodontic activity that the contractor is to provide under its GDS contract. The Monthly ACVP value produced after that deduction has been made is, subject to paragraph 4.11, the gross value of the contractor’s Monthly ACVPs for that month (i.e. the value before the deduction of employee’s superannuation contributions).

Deductions in respect of overpayments etc.

4.11 Deductions may need to be made to the amount determined in accordance with paragraph 4.10 under the administrative provisions in Section 12 of this SFE, to take account of matters such as overpayments. In accounting terms, these deductions may alter the gross value of the Monthly ACVP in question or the gross value of another payment, but either way they will alter the net value of the Monthly ACVP in question.

Deductions in respect of LDC levies

4.12 The PCT may have recognised a LDC for its area, pursuant to section 45B of the 1977 Act¹. Where it has done so, that committee will represent the Dentist Performers who are employed or engaged by the contractor. In these circumstances, the PCT is entitled, by virtue of section 45B(11)(b) of the 1977 Act to deduct an amount, commonly known as the levy, from the payments made to the contractor under its GDS contract in respect of the committee’s expenses². That deduction is to be made so as to reduce the net value of the contractor’s Monthly ACVPs.

Deductions in respect of employee’s superannuation contributions

¹ Section 45B was inserted by section paragraph 23 of Schedule 11 to the Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003 (c.43).

² In practice, the levy will then be remitted to the LDC by the NHS BSA.

4.13 The Dentist Performers who are employed or engaged by the contractor are likely to be members of the NHS Pension Scheme, and their Employing Authority for the purposes of that Scheme will, for present purposes, be the PCT (they may have employment in another context which also entitles them to an NHS Pension Scheme pension, but the pensionable earnings derived from that employment should be superannuated elsewhere). Unless they are Vocational Trainees, the Dentist Performers' Pensionable Earnings to be derived from that contractor's GDS contract in each financial year will be limited to a specified percentage of the value of that contract for that financial year, net of any parental leave payments, sickness leave payments, vocational trainee salary and national insurance reimbursement payments, non-domestic rates reimbursement payments or Monthly Seniority Payments payable under that agreement¹. Vocational Trainee's salaries (net of any bonus, expenses or overtime payments) are fully pensionable.

4.14 Each PCT will need to make all the deductions in respect of employee's superannuation contributions (including Money Purchase Additional Voluntary Contributions (MPAVCs)) that are payable in respect of the Dentist Performers' Pensionable Earnings that derive from each GDS contract that it holds.

4.15 Accordingly, it must deduct those contributions from the contractor's Monthly ACVPs (or, in the case of Vocational Trainee's employee's superannuation contributions, from their salary reimbursement payments). The process of calculating and making all these deductions is explained in Section 5. If it is an Employing Authority for any Dentist Performer employed or engaged by the contractor, it may also deduct from the contractor's Monthly ACVPs any employee's superannuation contributions (including Money Purchase Additional Voluntary Contributions (MPAVCs)) that the Dentist Performer owes but which have not been superannuated elsewhere, provided that the PCT has taken reasonable steps to satisfy itself that no other arrangements have been made to pay those contributions.

Net value of the contractor's first Monthly ACVPs

4.16 The gross value of a contractor's Monthly ACVPs, minus any necessary deductions as mentioned in paragraphs 4.11 to 4.15, and minus any voluntary deductions (such as contributions to the British Dental Guild²), which the contractor has asked to be made, is the net value of the contractor's first Monthly ACVPs, which is the amount actually to be paid. This amount becomes payable on the first working day of the month after the month to which the Monthly ACVP relates.

Conditions attached to Monthly ACVPs

4.17 Monthly ACVPs, or any part of such payments, are only payable if the contractor satisfies the following conditions—

¹ It is anticipated that the percentage that the Secretary of State will determine, in accordance with paragraph 3(2B)(b) of Schedule 2 to the NHS Pension Scheme Regulations, as the percentage for the financial year 2006 to 2007 will be 43.9%. Accordingly, 56.1% of the value of the agreement, less the specified deductions, is deemed to be spent on practice expenses.

² British Dental Guild contributions will be apportioned and remitted by the NHS BSA, as required.

- (a) the contractor must make available any information which the PCT does not have but needs (including the returns required by virtue of paragraph 38 of Schedule 3 to the GDS Contracts Regulations), and which the contractor either has or could reasonably be expected to obtain, in order to calculate the contractor's Monthly ACVPs;
- (b) the contractor must make available to the PCT a reasonable estimate of the net monthly Pensionable Earnings (i.e. net of any Pensionable Earnings that are attributable to any Monthly Seniority Payment) of each Dentist Performer who is employed or engaged by it, and must notify the PCT of any appropriate changes to that estimate; and
- (c) all information supplied pursuant to or in accordance with this paragraph must be accurate.

4.18 If the contractor breaches any condition of its Monthly ACVPs that is set out in this SFE (including the conditions that are set out in paragraph 4.17), the PCT may, in appropriate circumstances, withhold payment of all or any part of a Monthly ACVP that is otherwise payable.

Monthly Payment Schedule

4.19 On the due date for Monthly ACVPs, or as soon as reasonably practicable thereafter, the PCT must send to the contractor a Monthly Payment Schedule which shall include (but not be limited to)–

- (a) the contractor's AACV;
- (b) the amount of the initial value of the contractor's Monthly ACVPs, prior to any permitted deductions;
- (c) the amount of permitted deductions, which shall be specified in two parts–
 - (i) the amount of the NHS charges that the PCT has determined, in accordance with paragraph 4.10, that the contractor should have collected in respect of treatment that has counted or will count towards the number of units of dental activity or, where applicable, orthodontic activity that the contractor is to provide under its GDS contract, and
 - (ii) the amount of any other deductions that need to be made to the Monthly ACVPs under the contract or pursuant to this SFE (for example, the deductions mentioned in paragraphs 4.11 and 4.15), together with the reason for any such deduction;
- (d) the amount of the Monthly ACVP following the permitted deductions;

- (e) any other payments payable to the contractor pursuant to these Directions on that due date, including where relevant an indication that a particular payment is made in respect of a named Dentist Performer;
- (f) the estimated net monthly Pensionable Earnings of each Dentist Performer who performs services under the contract, i.e. net of any Pensionable Earnings that are attributable to any Monthly Seniority Payment;
- (g) the number of units of dental activity or, where applicable, orthodontic activity the contractor—
 - (i) is contracted to provide during the relevant financial year,
 - (ii) has so far provided during the financial year, based on the data submitted to the PCT by the contractor, in accordance with its contract condition set by virtue of paragraph 38 of Schedule 3 to the GDS Contracts Regulations, and
 - (iii) has left to provide during the financial year; and
- (h) the number of courses of treatment involving sedation services or domiciliary services in respect of which Monthly ADSSPs have been made under section 6.

4.20 In practice, in accordance with entry 1(c) in column 2 of the Schedule to the Functions Regulations, the Monthly Payment Schedule will be sent to the contractor by the NHS BSA, who will also need to send a copy to the PCT (entry 1(a) of column 3 of the Schedule to the Functions Regulations).

Annual Reconciliation Report

4.21 The PCT must, by 30th June in each financial year except the financial year 2006 to 2007, send the contractor an Annual Reconciliation Report, whether as part of the annual report and review required by paragraph 39 of Schedule 3 to the GDS Contracts Regulations or otherwise, which shall include (but not be limited to), in respect of the previous financial year—

- (a) the total value of the contractor's GDS contract, net of—
 - (i) any payments in respect of parental or sickness leave or any Monthly Seniority Payments (these are payments that are pensionable but not included in the calculation of the GDS contract's Pensionable Earnings Ceiling), and
 - (ii) any vocational trainee salary payments, vocational trainee national insurance reimbursement payments, or non-domestic rates reimbursement payments (these are payments that are neither pensionable nor included in the calculation of the GDS contract's Pensionable Earnings Ceiling);

- (b) the total of the initial values of the contractor’s Monthly ACVPs;
- (c) the total value of the deductions made to Monthly ACVPs paid to the contractor which shall be specified in two parts–
 - (i) the total amount of the NHS charges deducted, and
 - (ii) the total amount of any other deductions made under the contract or pursuant to this SFE;
- (d) the estimated Pensionable Earnings of each Dentist Performer who performed services under its GDS contract, net of any Pensionable Earnings that are attributable to any Monthly Seniority Payment paid in respect of the Dentist Performer;
- (e) the number of units of dental activity or orthodontic activity the contractor—
 - (i) was contracted to provide,
 - (ii) actually provided, based on the data submitted to the PCT by the contractor, in accordance with its contract condition set by virtue of paragraph 38 of Schedule 3 to the GDS Contracts Regulations, and
 - (iii) where relevant, the number of units of dental activity or orthodontic activity that the contractor was contracted to provide but did not provide; and
- (f) the number of courses of treatment involving sedation services or domiciliary services in respect of which Monthly ADSSPs have been made under section 6.

4.22 The Annual Reconciliation Report will draw on an annual reconciliation statement about the payments under the GDS contract sent by the NHS BSA to the PCT pursuant to entry 1(b) in column 3 of the Functions Regulations.

5. Superannuation contributions

Employer’s superannuation contributions of Dentist Performers

5.1 Under the NHS Pension Scheme Regulations, PCTs will continue to be liable for paying the employer’s superannuation contributions in respect of the Pensionable Earnings of dental practitioners who are employed or engaged by a contractor, who are members of the Scheme and who are–

- (a) type 1 dental practitioners (for these purposes, Dentist Performers, other than Vocational Trainees); or

(b) type 2 dental practitioners (for these purposes, Vocational Trainees),
as their Employing Authority.

5.2 In practice, by virtue of entry 26(a) in column 2 of the Schedule to the Functions Regulations, one part of the NHS BSA (the part that is acting, in effect, as agent of the PCT), will be responsible for forwarding to another part of the NHS BSA (the part that acts as the Pension Scheme administrator) the employer's superannuation contributions that the PCT owes in respect of these type 1 and type 2 dental practitioners. The Department of Health will–

- (a) make available to the part of the NHS BSA that is acting, in effect, as agent of PCTs in this matter the resources that it needs for forwarding these contributions;
- (b) deduct from its allocations to PCTs amounts equal to the PCTs' liabilities that have been thus discharged.

Employee's superannuation contributions and Money Purchase Additional Voluntary Contributions of Dentist Performers

5.3 As regards the employee superannuation contributions, and any MPAVCs, the following arrangements will apply–

- (a) in the case of Vocational Trainees, although the contractor that employs him is legally responsible for ensuring that his employee superannuation contributions are deducted from his salary, in practice, these contributions will be deducted by the NHS BSA (i.e. the part of it acting, in effect, as the agent of the PCT) from the reimbursement of salary payment under paragraph 8.5(b). It will then remit these employee superannuation contributions to the part of the NHS BSA that acts as the Pension Scheme administrator;
- (b) in the case of type 1 dental practitioner members of the Scheme–
 - (i) their employee superannuation contributions in respect of their Pensionable Earnings will have to be deducted by the PCT from the contractor's Monthly ACVPs; and
 - (ii) any MPAVCs will have to be deducted by the PCT from the contractor's Monthly ACVPs.

5.4 In practice, the making of the deductions referred to in paragraph 5.3(b) will generally be undertaken by the NHS BSA, which has been given the power to make these deductions by virtue of entries 26(a) and 28(a) of the Schedule to the Functions Regulations (although the PCT remains ultimately responsible for the calculation of the deductions and ensuring that the deductions that are made are correct). These deductions are to be made in two stages.

Monthly deductions in respect of employee's superannuation contributions of Dentist Performers who are not Vocational Trainees

5.5 First, as is stated in paragraphs 4.13 to 4.15 above, deductions in respect of type 1 dental practitioners will need to be made each month from the contractor's Monthly ACVPs. These deductions are to be based on a reasonable estimate of a the monthly proportion of the annual liability of each type 1 dental practitioner employed or engaged by the contractor in respect of–

- (a) the employee's superannuation contributions payable to the part of the NHS BSA that acts as the Pension Scheme administrator; and
- (b) any MPAVCs payable to an MPAVCs Provider.

5.6 The PCT must take all reasonable steps to agree the amount of the deductions with the contractor and must, where requested to do so by the contractor, duly justify the amount of the monthly deductions. It must keep those amounts under review, to take account of significant changes to the contractor's income.

5.7 An amount equal to the monthly amount that the NHS BSA, acting in effect as the agent of PCTs in this matter, deducts must be remitted to the part of the NHS BSA that acts as the Pension Scheme administrator, and to any relevant MPAVCs Provider, no later than–

- (a) in the case of employee superannuation contributions, the nineteenth day of the month after the month in respect of which the earnings to which the contributions relate were paid; or
- (b) in the case of MPAVCs, the seventh day after the payment from which they were deducted was paid.

End-year adjustments

5.8 After the end of any financial year, it should be possible for the PCT to determine the value of the contractor's GDS contract, net of–

- (a) any payments in respect of parental or sickness leave or any Monthly Seniority Payments (these are payments that are pensionable but not included in the calculation of the GDS contract's Pensionable Earnings Ceiling); and
- (b) any vocational trainee salary payments, reimbursement of vocational trainee national insurance reimbursement payments, or non-domestic rates reimbursement payments (these are payments that are neither pensionable nor included in the calculation of the GDS contract's Pensionable Earnings Ceiling).

5.9 This amount will be included in the Annual Reconciliation Report. The Secretary of State will have established, pursuant to the NHS Pension Scheme Regulations, what percentage of that net amount can be considered as Pensionable

Earnings under that contract. By applying that percentage to that net amount, the PCT, and the contractor, will be able to determine the Pensionable Earnings Ceiling for that contract for that financial year.

5.10 If any Dentist Performer who is employed or engaged by a contractor is a member of the NHS Pension Scheme, it is a condition of that contractor's Monthly ACVPs that, by the date specified by the Secretary of State in accordance with paragraph 5A(1) of Schedule 2 to the NHS Pension Scheme Regulations¹, the contractor sends to the PCT a standard return (set nationally² and available electronically) specifying, for the financial year to which the return relates, the Pensionable Earnings derived from its GDS contract of each Dentist Performer that it employed or engaged during that financial year. Those totals in respect of each individual performer must not, taken together, amount to more, but may amount to less, than the contractor's Pensionable Earnings Ceiling for that financial year.

5.11 The functions of–

- (a) receiving these returns;
- (b) extending the deadline for the reception of these returns;
- (c) accepting replacement returns in appropriate circumstances;
- (d) varying the amounts specified in the returns in appropriate circumstances; and
- (e) determining the validity of the returns,

are all functions that may now be performed by the NHS BSA, acting in effect as agent of the PCT (entry 26 in columns 2 and 3 of the Schedule to the Functions Regulations).

5.12 Once the Pensionable Earnings in respect of that financial year of each Dentist Performer employed or engaged by a contractor have been notified to the PCT, the PCT (or if the adjustments can be made by varying GDS contract payments, the NHS BSA, effectively acting on its behalf) must–

- (a) if the deductions of employee's superannuation contributions (including MPAVCs) from the contractor's Monthly ACVPs during that financial year in respect of those earnings–
 - (i) did not cover the cost of all the employee's superannuation contributions payable by the contractor's Dentist Performers in respect of those earnings–

¹ It is anticipated that this date will be one month from the date of receiving the Annual Reconciliation Report.

² This return is in a format determined by the Secretary of State in accordance with paragraph 5A(1) of Schedule 2 to the NHS Pension Scheme Regulations.

- (aa) deduct the amount outstanding from any Monthly ACVPSs payable, or from a series of Monthly ACVPs payable, to the contractor, or
 - (bb) obtain payment (where no such deduction can be made) from the contractor of the amount outstanding, and it is a condition of all of the payments made pursuant to this SFE that the contractor must pay to the PCT the amount outstanding, or
 - (ii) were in excess of the amount payable in respect of employee's superannuation contributions, repay the excess amount to the contractor promptly (unless in the case of an excess amount in respect of MPAVCs, the Dentist Performer elects for that amount to be a further contribution and is entitled to so elect); and
- (b) forward any outstanding employee's superannuation contributions due in respect of those earnings to the part of the NHS BSA that acts as the Pension Scheme administrator or the relevant MPAVCs Provider (having regard to the payments it has already made on account in respect of those Dentist Performers for that financial year).

PART 2

PAYMENTS FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES

6. Domiciliary services and sedation services

Agreeing and revising Annual Domiciliary and Sedation Services Payments

6.1 Where the contractor is to provide sedation services or domiciliary services under its GDS contract for or during part of a financial year, the contractor and the PCT must agree an annual (or annualised for part years) number of courses of treatment involving sedations or domiciliary visits for that financial year and an annual (or annualised for part years) sum to be paid in respect of those courses of treatment. This amount is known as the Annual Domiciliary and Sedation Services Payment (ADSSP) and is to be paid in monthly instalments.

6.2 If that number of courses of treatment involving sedations or domiciliary visits is revised, a new ADSSP will have to be established for that contractor. If that variation takes effect during the year, the revised ADSSP for that contract shall be an annual (or annualised for the part year) amount for calculation purposes, even though only a proportion of that annual amount will in fact be payable

Annual uprating of ADSSPs

6.3 If –

- (a) at the start of a financial year, a contractor was in receipt of Monthly ADSSPs in respect of the last month of the previous financial year; and
- (d) the number of courses of treatment involving sedations or domiciliary visits that the contractor is required to provide is unchanged,

the amount of its ADSSP is to be uprated by a percentage amount to be determined by the Secretary of State. It is intended that at the start of each financial year this SFE will be amended so as to include that percentage increase, which in the case of the financial years 2007 to 2008 and 2008 to 2009 will be the same as the 2007/8 Adjustment and the 2008/9 Adjustment mentioned in paragraph 2.15.

Initial value of Monthly ADSSPs

6.4 Once the contractor's first ADSSP has been established, that amount is to be divided by twelve, and subject to paragraphs 6.5 to 6.11, the result is the first gross value of the contractor's Monthly ADSSPs.

6.5 If the contractor's contractual arrangement to provide a specified number of courses of treatment involving sedations or domiciliary visits took effect other than on the first day of a month, the gross value of its Monthly ADSSPs in respect of the first part-month of this contractual arrangement is to be produced by dividing–

- (a) the number of days during the month for which the contractual arrangements to provide domiciliary and sedation services have effect; by
- (b) the total number of days in that month.

6.6 That gross value (expressed as a monthly value, in cases where the relevant contractual arrangement took effect other than on the first day of the month) will remain the basis for the calculation of the net value of the contractor's Monthly ADSSPs, until that initial value is next revised.

Revision of the initial value of Monthly ADSSPs

6.7 The gross value of a contractor's Monthly ADSSPs will have to be revised where, for any reason, its ADSSP is revised (for example, to take account of annual uprating or where the contractor's specified number of courses of treatment involving sedations or domiciliary visits is changed).

6.8 If the contractor's ADSSP is revised for the start of a month, the new gross value of its Monthly ADSSPs (until its ADSSP is next revised again) is its new ADSSP divided by twelve. If its ADSSP changes during a month, the new gross value of its Monthly ADSSPs (until its ADSSP is next revised again)–

- (a) for the month after the month during which its ADSSP changed, is its new ADSSP divided by 12; or
- (b) for the month during which its ADSSP changed, is the aggregate of the following amounts–
 - (i) the amount produced by dividing the number of days during the month before the change by the total number of days in that month, and multiplying that fraction by the old initial value of the contractor's Monthly ADSSPs, plus
 - (ii) the amount produced by dividing the number of days during the month for which the contractor had a new ADSSP by the total number of days in that month, and multiplying that fraction by the new initial value of the contractor's Monthly ADSSPs.

6.9 Once the gross value of a contractor's Monthly ADSSPs has been established for any particular month (subject to paragraph 6.11), the PCT must go on to establish the net value of the contractor's Monthly ADSSPs, which is the amount actually to be paid.

NHS charges and employee's superannuation contributions

6.10 The NHS charges in respect of the courses of treatment involving sedations or domiciliary visits should be deducted from the contractor's Monthly ACVPs, so no deduction will need be made in respect of those from the Monthly ADSSPs. Any employee's superannuation contributions attributable to the Monthly ADSSPs will be

deducted from the Monthly AVCPS rather than the ADSSPs. However, as both Monthly ACVPs and ADSSPs are payable at the same time, this distinction will generally only have accounting rather than practical implications.

Deductions in respect of overpayments etc.

6.11 Deductions may need to be made from Monthly ADSSPs under the administrative provisions in Section 12 of this SFE, to take account of matters such as overpayments. In accounting terms, these deductions may alter the gross value of the Monthly ADSSP in question or the gross value of another payment, but either way it will alter the net value of the Monthly ADSSP in question.

Net value of the contractor's first Monthly ADSSPs

6.12 The gross value of a contractor's Monthly ADSSPs, minus any deductions as mentioned in paragraph 6.11, is the net value of the contractor's first Monthly ADSSPs, which is the amount actually to be paid. This amount becomes payable on the first working day of the month after the month to which the Monthly ADSSP relates.

Conditions attached to Monthly ADSSPs

6.13 Monthly ADSSPs, or any part of such payments, are only payable if the contractor satisfies the following conditions—

- (a) the contractor must make available any information which the PCT does not have but needs (including the returns required by virtue of paragraph 38 of Schedule 3 to the GDS Contracts Regulations), and which the contractor either has or could reasonably be expected to obtain, in order to calculate the contractor's Monthly ADSSPs;
- (b) all information supplied pursuant to or in accordance with this paragraph must be accurate.

6.14 If the contractor breaches any condition of its Monthly ADSSPs that is set out in this SFE (including the conditions that are set out in paragraph 6.13), the PCT may, in appropriate circumstances, withhold payment of any or any part of a Monthly ADSSP that is otherwise payable.

7. Seniority payments

7.1 Seniority payments are monthly payments to a contractor in respect of individual Dentist Performers who satisfy the eligibility criteria.

Eligibility criteria

7.2 A contractor is entitled to receive a seniority payment in respect of a Dentist Performer employed or engaged by it if the Dentist Performer—

- (a) reached the age of 55 years–
 - (i) before 1st January 2006, and was entitled to and in receipt of a seniority payment pursuant to Determination III of the SDR (set out in the Annex to this SFE) in respect of the last quarter of the financial year 2005 to 2006, or
 - (ii) between 1st January 2006 and 31st March 2006 inclusive, and would have been entitled to a seniority payment pursuant to Determination III of the SDR in respect of the last quarter of the financial year 2005 to 2006 had he reached the age of 55 years in the previous quarter of that financial year;
- (b) reached the age of 55 years before 1st April 2006, and–
 - (i) in the last quarter of the financial year 2005 to 2006, he was employed or engaged by a pilot scheme provider, and
 - (ii) he would have been entitled to a seniority payment pursuant to Determination III of the SDR in respect of that quarter had he–
 - (aa) instead provided services under section 35 of the NHS Act 1977 in that quarter, and
 - (bb) reached the age of 55 years before 1st January 2006 (whether or not he did in fact do so); or
- (c) reaches the age of 55 years between 1st April 2006 and 31st March 2008 inclusive (although his eligibility is treated as starting in the month after the month during which his birthday falls), and–
 - (i) in the last quarter of the financial year 2005 to 2006, he provided services under section 35 of the 1977 Act or a pilot scheme agreement, and
 - (ii) he would have been entitled to a seniority payment pursuant to Determination III of the SDR in respect of that quarter had he–
 - (aa) in the case of a person who provided services under a pilot scheme agreement in that quarter, provided services under section 35 of the 1977 Act in that quarter, and
 - (bb) reached the age of 55 years in the previous quarter of that financial year.

7.3 Additionally, a contractor is entitled to receive a seniority payment in respect of a Dentist Performer employed or engaged by it only if–

- (a) the person in respect of whom the payment is made remains included in a Dental Performers List;
- (b) the person in respect of whom the payment is made is not in receipt of a pension payment under the NHS pension scheme in any month in which the contractor claims a Monthly Seniority Payment in respect of him; and
- (c) the amount of the payment, together with the amount of any other Monthly Seniority Payment received by any other contractor or PDS Agreement Holder in respect of that Dentist Performer for the same month is less than £625.

Applications for a seniority payment

7.4 Where a Dentist Performer satisfies the eligibility criteria specified in paragraph 7.2(a) or (b), in order to obtain its first Monthly Seniority Payment in respect of that Dentist Performer, the contractor must notify the PCT in writing—

- (a) that the Dentist Performer is employed or engaged by the contractor; and
- (b) of any other Monthly Seniority Payments which any other contractor or PDS Agreement Holder is claiming in respect of that Dentist Performer for any month to which the contractor’s claim relates.

7.5 Where a Dentist Performer satisfies the eligibility criteria specified in paragraph 7.2(c), in order to obtain its first Monthly Seniority Payment in respect of that Dentist Performer, the contractor must make an application to the PCT on a standard form (set nationally and available electronically), and that application must include—

- (a) details of how the Dentist Performer satisfies the eligibility set out in paragraph 7.2(c);
- (b) details of the Dentist Performer’s estimated net monthly Pensionable Earnings (which should be the amount that features in respect of that Dentist Performer on the contractor’s Monthly Payment Schedule); and
- (c) details of any other Monthly Seniority Payments which any other contractor or PDS Agreement Holder is claiming in respect of that Dentist Performer for any month to which the contractor’s claim relates.

The percentage calculation and the maximum amount of Monthly Seniority Payments

7.6 The amount to which the contractor is entitled as a Monthly Seniority Payment in respect of a Dentist Performer that it employs or engages and in respect of whom the eligibility criteria are satisfied is 21.72% of the Dentist Performer’s net monthly Pensionable Earnings under the contractor’s GDS contract in the month to which the

payment relates, but the maximum amount payable in respect of each Dentist Performer in any month is £625.

7.7 Where a Monthly Seniority Payment may be payable in respect of a particular Dentist Performer to more than one contractor or PDS Agreement Holder, but the totals payable under each contract or agreement, taken together, would (if there were no maximum amounts) exceed £625, the maximum amount payable under all the contracts or agreements under which Monthly Seniority Payments may be payable in respect of him is £625. The £625 must therefore be distributed proportionately between each GDS contract or PDS agreement.

7.8 So, if the Dentist Performer earns 60% of his net monthly Pensionable Earnings from a GDS contract, 30% from one PDS agreement and 10% from another PDS agreement, his Monthly Seniority Payment under the GDS contract would be £375, and under the two PDS agreements would be £187.50 and £62.50 respectively.

7.9 In practice, the apportionment will be made by the NHS BSA, as it is they who will have the necessary data about each of the relevant contracts or agreements.

Estimates of net monthly Pensionable Earnings

7.10 For the purposes of this Section, a Dentist Performer's net monthly Pensionable Earnings in respect of any month are one twelfth of his Pensionable Earnings for the financial year into which the month falls, having excluded from those earnings any Pensionable Earnings for that financial year which are attributable to a Monthly Seniority Payment.

7.11 This means that it will be impossible to know, until sometime after the end of a financial year, what the true value of the Monthly Seniority Payments during that financial year should be. Accordingly, PCT's must pay, each month, an estimate of what the true value of the Monthly Seniority Payments should be, and that estimate must be the estimate of the net monthly Pensionable Earnings (i.e. net of any Pensionable Earnings that are attributable to any Monthly Seniority Payments) that appears in respect of the Dentist Performer on the contractor's Monthly Payment Schedule.

7.12 The amount of this monthly estimate becomes payable on the first working day of the month after the month to which the Monthly Seniority Payment relates. Any excess that falls due once the true value of the Monthly Seniority Payments is ascertained becomes payable once that true value is ascertained by the PCT.

Conditions attached to Monthly Seniority Payments

7.13 Monthly Seniority Payments, or any part of such payments, are only payable if the following conditions are satisfied—

- (a) the contractor must make available to the PCT any information which the PCT does not have but needs, and the contractor either has or could reasonably be expected to obtain, in order to calculate the payment;

- (b) the contractor must notify the PCT of any change in the amount of the net monthly Pensionable Earnings (i.e. net of any Pensionable Earnings that are attributable to any Monthly Seniority Payments) of the Dentist Performers employed or engaged by it; and
- (c) all information provided pursuant to or in accordance with this paragraph must be accurate.

7.14 If the contractor breaches any condition of its payments under this Section that is set out in this SFE (including the conditions that are set out in paragraph 7.13), the PCT may, in appropriate circumstances, withhold payment of any or any part of a payment under this Section that is otherwise payable.

8. Payments in respect of vocational training

8.1 Payments in respect of vocational training are payments to a contractor who employs a Vocational Trainee. They are intended to meet the salary costs of employing the Vocational Trainee, provide payment to the Dentist Performer who is providing the vocational training to the Vocational Trainee and to provide a payment to the contractor to cover service costs.

Eligibility for payments in respect of vocational training

8.2 A contractor will be eligible to receive payments under this Section where—

- (a) the contractor employs or engages a Dentist Performer who is a Trainer;
- (b) the contractor has employed a Vocational Trainee under a contract of employment for—
 - (i) a period of one year’s full-time employment (or an equivalent period of part-time employment), or
 - (ii) any other period which is a “relevant period of employment” for the purposes of regulation 28(3) of the Performers Lists Regulations; and
- (c) under that contract of employment, the contractor has agreed to pay the Vocational Trainee a monthly salary at a full-time (at least 35 hours per week) rate of £2,281 per month (so for a part-time Vocational Trainee, that amount *pro rata*).

8.3 Any attendance by a Vocational Trainee at a day release course in connection with the vocational training scheme is to be included in the calculation of his contracted hours.

Applications for payments under this Section

8.4 Where a contractor satisfies the eligibility criteria specified in paragraph 8.2, read with paragraph 8.3, in order to obtain payments in respect of vocational training, it must make an application to the PCT on a standard form (set nationally and available electronically), and that application must include–

- (a) the name of the Vocational Trainee appointed, the date when the Vocational Trainee’s employment commenced, the number of hours to be worked by the Vocational Trainee per week, the date when the Vocational Trainee’s employment will end, and the date of the month on which payment of the salary will be made to the Vocational Trainee;
- (b) a certificate provided by the local Postgraduate Dental Dean or Director or Postgraduate Dental Education (as the case may be) verifying that the information provided pursuant to paragraph (a) is correct; and
- (c) a declaration in writing that the contractor will pay the Vocational Trainee a monthly salary at a full-time (at least 35 hours per week) rate of £2,281 per month (so for a part-time Vocational Trainee, that amount *pro rata*).

Vocational training payments to be made

8.5 There are four types of vocational training payment that a contractor who satisfies the eligibility criteria and who has applied in accordance with paragraph 8.4 is entitled to receive during the currency of a training contract with a Vocational Trainee–

- (a) a training grant of £684.50 per month, if the Vocational Trainee is full-time (i.e. has contracted hours of at least 35 hours per week), or that amount *pro rata* if the Vocational Trainee is part-time;
- (b) reimbursement of the salary which the contractor has paid to the Vocational Trainee, which is to be £2,281 per month, less (if the Vocational Trainee is a member of the NHS Pension Scheme) the Vocational Trainee’s employee superannuation contributions in respect of his salary (see paragraph 5.3(a)), if the Vocational Trainee is full-time (i.e. has contracted hours of at least 35 hours per week), or that amount *pro rata* if the Vocational Trainee is part-time;
- (c) where a salary is reimbursed pursuant to sub-paragraph (b), reimbursement of the amount of any employer’s national insurance contributions which are payable by the contractor in respect of that salary; and
- (d) a sum that represents the service cost to the contractor of employing the Vocational Trainee, of £4,750 per month, if the Vocational Trainee is full-time (i.e. has contracted hours of at least 35 hours per week), or that amount *pro rata* if the Vocational Trainee is part-time.

8.6 Again, any attendance by a Vocational Trainee at a day release course in connection with the vocational training scheme is to be included in the calculation of his contracted hours.

8.7 The payments due to a contractor under this Section become payable on the first working day of the month after the month to which the claim for the payments relates, which need not be a calendar month. Only one application for payments need be made in respect of each agreed training period, and where appropriate, *pro rata* claims may be made in respect of part months).

Conditions attached to vocational training payments

8.8 Payments under paragraph 8.5(a), or any part of such payments, are only payable if the contractor gives that training grant to the Vocational Trainee's Trainer–

- (a) within one calendar month of receiving the training grant; and
- (b) as an element of the personal income of the Trainer, subject to any lawful deduction of income tax, national insurance and superannuation contributions.

8.9 Payments under paragraph 8.5(b) or (c), or any part of such payments, are only payable if the contractor pays the Vocational Trainee his salary under his contract of employment.

8.10 The payments under paragraph 8.5, or any part of such payments, are only payable if the following conditions are satisfied–

- (a) the Trainer in respect of whom the payments are made must remain a Trainer;
- (b) the Vocational Trainee in respect of whom the payments are made must remain employed by the contractor;
- (c) the contractor must inform the PCT if there is any change of circumstances which may affect its entitlement to payments under this Section (including changes which may affect the level of the payments to which it is entitled under this Section);
- (d) the contractor must make available to the PCT any information which the PCT does not have but needs and contractor either has or could reasonably be expected to obtain in order to calculate the payment; and
- (e) all information provided by the contractor pursuant to or in accordance with sub-paragraphs (c) or (d) must be accurate.

8.11 If the contractor breaches any condition of its payments under this Section that is set out in this SFE (including the conditions that are set out in paragraphs 8.8 to

8.10), the PCT may, in appropriate circumstances, withhold payment of any or any part of a payment under this Section that is otherwise payable.

8.12 If there is a breach to the condition that is set out in paragraph 8.10(b), the PCT may require repayment of any payment paid to which the condition relates, or may withhold payment of any other payment payable to the contractor under this SFE, to the value of the payment paid. However, if the contract of employment is terminated by either party before it has run its full course and the Vocational Trainee does not serve out a period of notice but is instead paid an amount equal to the salary due in respect of the period of notice, the contractor will be entitled to receive payments under paragraph 8.5(b) and (c) in respect of the amount of the salary which it has paid to the Vocational Trainee in respect of the period of notice, up to a maximum of one month's salary.

9. Payments in respect of maternity, paternity and adoption leave

9.1 Employees of contractors will have rights to time off for ante-natal care, maternity leave, paternity leave, adoption leave and parental leave if they satisfy the relevant entitlement conditions under employment legislation for those types of leave. The right of partners in partnerships to these types of leave is a matter for their partnership agreement.

9.2 If an employee, a partner in a partnership or a contractor is a Dentist Performer, the contractor that employs or engages that Dentist Performer will be entitled under this Section to payments from the PCT in respect of a period of maternity leave, paternity leave or adoption leave taken by that Dentist Performer, provided the eligibility criteria are satisfied and the relevant payment conditions are not breached. However, nothing in the conditions for payments to contractors under this Section shall be interpreted as qualifying a Dentist Performer's statutory rights. In any event, even if the PCT is not directed in this SFE to make payments to a contractor in respect of parental leave, it may do so as a matter of discretion. The powers to do so are set out in section 28Y of the 1977 Act.

Eligibility for maternity leave payments

9.3 A contractor is entitled to receive a maternity leave payment in respect of a Dentist Performer that it employs or engages if—

- (a) subject to paragraph 9.6, the Dentist Performer's name has been included in a Dental List for a period of at least 2 years, and the last 26 weeks of that period must have been continuous and must have been a period of continuous employment or engagement that required the performance of dental services as part of the NHS and must have immediately preceded the 15th week before the expected week of confinement;

- (b) the Dentist Performer has become pregnant and has reached, or been confined before reaching, the commencement of the 11th week before the expected week of confinement;
- (c) the Dentist Performer has ceased to perform dental services under the contractor's GDS contract in order to take maternity leave (which for these purposes includes leave for ante-natal care); and
- (d) the payment relates to a Parental Leave Pay Period.

Eligibility for paternity leave payments

9.4 A contractor is entitled to receive a paternity leave payment in respect of a Dentist Performer that it employs or engages if—

- (a) subject to paragraph 9.6, the Dentist Performer's name has been included in a Dental List for a period of at least 2 years, and the last 26 weeks of that period must have been a period of continuous employment or engagement that required the performance of dental services as part of the NHS and must have immediately preceded the date of birth or adoption; and
- (b) the Dentist Performer's wife or partner has—
 - (i) given birth, or
 - (ii) adopted a child and will be the main care provider and the Dentist Performer is also an adoptive parent of that child;
- (c) the Dentist Performer has ceased to perform dental services under the contractor's GDS contract in order to take paternity leave; and
- (d) the payment relates to a Parental Leave Pay Period.

Eligibility for adoption leave payments

9.5 A contractor is entitled to receive an adoption leave payment in respect of a Dentist Performer that it employs or engages if—

- (a) subject to paragraph 9.6, the Dentist Performer's name has been included in a Dental List for a period of at least 2 years, and the last 26 weeks of that period must have been a period of continuous employment or engagement that required the performance of dental services as part of the NHS and must have immediately preceded the date of the adoption;
- (b) the Dentist Performer has become the adoptive parent of a child and is the main care provider for that child;

- (c) the Dentist Performer has ceased to provide dental services under the contractor's GDS contract in order to take adoption leave; and
- (d) the payment relates to a Parental Leave Pay Period.

Parental leave for those who have undertaken approved vocational training

9.6 In the case of a Dentist Performer who has undergone one year's approved vocational training, the 2 years mentioned in paragraphs 9.3(a), 9.4(a) and 9.5(a) shall be reduced to one year.

Meaning of "Parental Leave Pay Period"

9.7 In this Section, "Parental Leave Pay Period" means—

- (a) in the case of a maternity leave payment, a period not exceeding 26 weeks commencing—
 - (i) not earlier than the 11th week before the expected week of confinement, nor later than the expected week of confinement, or
 - (ii) if confinement occurs prior to the eleventh week before the expected week of confinement, on the Monday immediately before the actually date of confinement,in respect of which a claim for payments is made by or in respect of a person taking maternity leave (which for these purposes includes leave for ante-natal care) under this Section or Determination VI of the SDR;
- (b) in the case of a paternity payment, a period not exceeding 2 weeks commencing within 26 weeks of the date of the relevant birth or adoption and in respect of which a claim for payments is made by or in respect of a person taking paternity leave under this Section or Determination VI of the SDR;
- (c) in the case of an adoption leave payment, a period not exceeding 26 weeks which immediately follows the date of the adoption and in respect of which a claim for payments is made by or in respect of a person taking adoption leave under this Section or Determination VI of the SDR.

Applications for parental leave payments

9.8 Where a Dentist Performer satisfies the eligibility criteria specified in paragraph 9.3, 9.4 or 9.5, in order to obtain parental leave payments in respect of that Dentist Performer, the contractor must make an application to the PCT on a standard form (set nationally and available electronically), and that application must include—

- (a) the intended dates of the Dentist Performer's Parental Leave Pay Period (i.e. the Parental Leave Pay Period in respect of which the application is being made); and
- (b) details of the Dentist Performer's estimated net monthly Pensionable Earnings (which should be the amount that features in respect of that Dentist Performer on the contractor's Monthly Payment Schedule).

9.9 If the application is in respect of maternity leave payments, the application must also include—

- (a) a maternity certificate or other statement completed by a registered medical practitioner or registered midwife, giving the expected week of confinement of the Dentist Performer or, as the case may be, the date of confinement; and
- (b) a declaration in writing from the contractor that to the best of its knowledge no other claim for maternity leave payments has been made under this Section by any other contractor, or by a PDS Agreement Holder under the PDS SFE, in respect of the same Dentist Performer's maternity leave.

9.10 If the application is in respect of paternity leave payments, the application must also include—

- (a) in respect of the birth of a child, written confirmation from the contractor—
 - (i) of the expected or actual date of birth, and
 - (ii) that the Dentist Performer is the husband or partner of the mother, will share responsibility for the child's upbringing and is taking time off to support the mother or to care for the child;
- (b) in respect of the adoption of a child, documents showing the date on which the child is expected to be placed for adoption or the actual date of the placement, the date the adopter was notified of having been matched with the child and written confirmation from the contractor that the Dentist Performer—
 - (i) is the partner of the main care provider,
 - (ii) will share responsibility for the child's upbringing, and
 - (iii) is taking time off to support his partner or to care for the child; and
- (c) a declaration in writing from the contractor that to the best of its knowledge no other claim for paternity leave payments has been made under this Section by any other contractor, or by a PDS Agreement

Holder under the PDS SFE, in respect of the same Dentist Performer's paternity leave.

9.11 If the application is in respect of adoption leave payments, the application must also include—

- (a) in the case of an adoption within the United Kingdom, the date on which the child is expected to be placed for adoption or the actual date of the placement, the date the adopter was notified of having been matched with the child endorsed by the appropriate adoption agency with its name and address or a matching certificate giving equivalent details;
- (b) in the case of an inter-country adoption—
 - (i) the date on which the adopter received official notification,
 - (ii) the expected date the child will enter the United Kingdom or the date upon which the child did so enter, and
 - (iii) a copy of the official notification and evidence of the date of the child's arrival;
- (c) written confirmation from the contractor that the Dentist Performer is or will be the main care provider for the child; and
- (d) a declaration in writing from the contractor that to the best of its knowledge no other claim for adoption leave payments has been made under this Section by any other contractor, or by a PDS Agreement Holder under the PDS SFE, in respect of the same Dentist Performer's adoption leave.

Calculation of the amount of parental leave payments and the due date

9.12 The amount to which the contractor is entitled in respect of parental leave payments is a weekly amount, calculated on the basis of the Dentist Performer's estimated monthly Pensionable Earnings (which should usually be the amount that features in respect of that Dentist Performer on the contractor's Monthly Payment Schedule, plus his estimated monthly Pensionable Earnings in respect of any Monthly Seniority Payment to which he is entitled)—

- (a) immediately before the parental leave is taken; or
- (b) in the case of a Dentist Performer whose parental leave started on or before 1st April 2006, in March 2006.

This monthly amount is to be multiplied by 12 and then divided by 52 to produce the weekly amount of the parental leave payments.

9.13 That weekly amount is the amount to which the contractor is entitled in respect of each complete week of the Dentist Performer's Parental Leave Pay Period. If the last day of a week of the Dentist Performer's Parental Leave Pay Period falls in a particular calendar month, the weekly parental leave payment in respect of that week is to fall due on the first working day of the following month.

Conditions attached to parental leave payments

9.14 Payments under this Section, or any part of such payments, are only payable if the following conditions are satisfied—

- (a) the Dentist Performer must not perform any dental services during the Parental Leave Pay Period under any GDS contract or PDS agreement, except with the written approval of the PCT; and
- (b) unless the performer dies, the Dentist Performer in respect of whom the payments are made must continue to be a Dentist Performer and continue to be employed or engaged by the contractor (if the performer does die, parental leave payments may continue to be paid to the contractor for the balance of the Parental Leave Pay Period, provided these are forwarded by the contractor to the performer's estate); and
- (c) the contractor must continue to pay the Dentist Performer at least her estimated net Pensionable Earnings (which provided the basis for the calculation of the parental leave payment) during the Parental Leave Pay Period (or pay this to the performer's estate if the Dentist Performer dies).

9.15 If the contractor breaches any condition of its payments under this Section that is set out in this SFE (including the conditions that are set out in paragraph 9.14), the PCT may, in appropriate circumstances, withhold payment of any or any part of a payment under this Section that is otherwise payable.

10. Payments in respect of long-term sickness absence

10.1 Employees of contractors will, if they qualify for it, be entitled to statutory sick pay for 28 weeks of absence on account of sickness in any three years. The right of partners in partnership agreements to paid sickness leave is a matter for their partnership agreement.

10.2 If an employee, a partner in a partnership or a contractor is a Dentist Performer, the contractor that employs or engages that Dentist Performer will be entitled under this Section to payments from the PCT in respect of a period of long term sickness absence taken by that Dentist Performer, provided the eligibility criteria are satisfied and the relevant payment conditions are not breached. However, nothing in the conditions for payments to contractors under this Section shall be interpreted as qualifying a Dentist Performer's statutory rights. In any event, even if the PCT is not directed in this SFE to make payments to a contractor in respect of sickness absence,

it may do so as a matter of discretion. The powers to do so are set out in section 28Y of the NHS Act 1977.

Eligibility for sickness leave payments

10.3 A contractor is entitled to receive sickness leave payments in respect of a Dentist Performer that it employs or engages if, in respect of a complete week of sickness absence—

- (a) subject to paragraph 10.4, the Dentist Performer's name has been included in a Dental List for a period of at least 2 years, which need not be a continuous period and part or all of that period need not immediately precede the period of sickness, but during those 2 years (or that aggregate of 2 years) he must have been performing dental services as part of the NHS;
- (b) the Dentist Performer has been unable to provide dental services under the contractor's GDS contract because of sickness, but sickness leave payments are not payable in respect of the first 4 weeks of absence;
- (c) the Dentist Performer has been in receipt of payments under this Section or Determination VII of the SDR for less than the maximum of 22 weeks during a period of sickness; and
- (d) the contractor is not in receipt of payments under Section 9 in respect of the Dentist Performer.

10.4 In the case of a Dentist Performer has undergone one year's approved vocational training, the 2 years mentioned in paragraph 10.3(a) shall be reduced to one year.

10.5 Sickness leave payments are only payable in respect of a maximum of 22 weeks in any period of 52 weeks. So, for example, once sickness leave payments have been made in respect of a Dentist Performer for a continuous period of 22 weeks, it will be a further 30 weeks before the PCT could again be obliged to make sickness leave payments in respect of that Dentist Performer. However, the PCT may waive the eligibility criterion set out in this paragraph in any case where it considers it is reasonable in all the circumstances to do so

Applications for sickness leave payments

10.6 Where a Dentist Performer satisfies the eligibility criteria specified in paragraphs 10.3 to 10.5, in order to obtain a sickness leave payment in respect of that Dentist Performer, the contractor must make an application to the PCT on a standard form (set nationally and available electronically), and that application must include—

- (a) a medical certificate, or other statement, completed by a registered medical practitioner to the effect that the Dentist Performer is incapable of work by reason of sickness; and

- (b) a declaration in writing from the contractor that to the best of its knowledge no other claim for sickness leave payments has been made under this Section by any other contractor, or by a PDS Agreement Holder under the PDS SFE, in respect of the same Dentist Performer's sickness absence.

Calculation of the amount of sickness leave payments and the due date

10.7 The amount to which the contractor is entitled in respect of sickness leave payments is a weekly amount, calculated on the basis of the Dentist Performer's estimated monthly Pensionable Earnings (which should usually be the amount that features in respect of that Dentist Performer on the contractor's Monthly Payment Schedule, plus his estimated monthly Pensionable Earnings in respect of any Monthly Seniority Payment to which he is entitled)–

- (a) immediately before the sickness leave is taken; or
- (b) in the case of a Dentist Performer whose sickness leave started on or before 1st April 2006, in March 2006.

This amount is to be multiplied by 12 and then divided by 52 to produce, subject to paragraph 10.8, the weekly amount of the sickness leave payments.

10.8 The weekly amount determined in accordance with paragraph 10.7 is the amount to which the contractor is entitled in respect of each complete week during which the Dentist Performer is absent and continues to satisfy the eligibility criteria. If the last day of such a week falls in a particular calendar month, the weekly sickness leave payment in respect of that week is to fall due on the first working day of the following month.

Conditions attached to sickness leave payments

10.9 Payments under this Section, or any part of such payments, are only payable if the following conditions are satisfied–

- (a) the contractor must, if the PCT so requests, provide the PCT with medical certificates or other statements to the effect that the Dentist Performer is incapable of work by reason of sickness, completed by a registered medical practitioner, covering any period of absence in respect of which a sickness leave payment is being claimed;
- (b) the Dentist Performer must not perform any dental services under a GDS contract or PDS agreement during any period of absence in respect of which a sickness leave payment is claimed, except with the written approval of the PCT;
- (c) unless he dies, the Dentist Performer in respect of whom the payments are made continues to be a Dentist Performer and continues to be employed or engaged by the contractor (if he does die, sickness leave payments may continue to be paid to the contractor for the balance of

the 22 weeks for which sickness leave payments would otherwise have been payable, provided these are forwarded by the contractor to the Dentist Performer's estate); and

- (d) the contractor must continue to pay the Dentist Performer at least his estimated net Pensionable Earnings during his absence (or pay this to his estate if he dies).

10.10 If the contractor breaches any condition of its sickness leave payments that is set out in this SFE (including the conditions that are set out in paragraph 10.9), the PCT may, in appropriate circumstances, withhold payment of any or any part of a payment under this Section that is otherwise payable.

11. Reimbursement of non-domestic rates

11.1 Under this Section, a contractor may be able to claim reimbursement of the Non-domestic Rates payable in relation to any premises at which it provides services under its GDS contract.

Eligibility for reimbursement of non-domestic rates

11.2 A contractor is entitled to receive reimbursement of payments in respect of its non-domestic rates for practice premises if, in any financial year–

- (a) it is a Non-Domestic Ratepayer or, where the contractor is a partnership, one of the partners comprising the partnership is the Non-Domestic Ratepayer, as regards the hereditament that comprises or includes the practice premises and in respect of which the claim is made (“the Hereditament”); and
- (b) subject to paragraph 11.3, the total value of the primary dental services provided at the practice premises as part of the NHS is not less than £25,000.

11.3 The PCT may waive the eligibility criterion in paragraph 11.2(b) in any case where it considers it is reasonable in all the circumstances to do so.

Applications for reimbursement of non-domestic rates

11.4 Where the contractor satisfies the eligibility criteria specified in paragraph 11.2, read with paragraph 11.3, in order to obtain reimbursement in respect of its non-domestic rates, it must make an application to the PCT on a standard form (set nationally and available electronically), and that application must include–

- (a) the Demand Notice for the financial year to which the claim relates, or a copy of it certified by the Billing Authority;
- (b) in respect of the Hereditament–

- (i) a receipt from the Billing Authority for the whole amount or, if the contractor pays the annual amount in two instalments, half the amount of the contractor's (or the partner's) annual liability for non-domestic rates, specified in the Demand Notice, or
 - (ii) if the contractor (or the partner) pays its non-domestic rates by monthly instalments, details of the amount to be paid each month, the date the payments are due to commence and the date the payments are due to cease, unless the contractor wishes to be reimbursed in a lump sum after payment of all the instalments, in which case it must provide proof of payment for the whole amount specified in the Demand Notice;
- (c) a declaration in writing from the contractor specifying the proportion, expressed as a percentage, which its income under its GDS contract bears to the gross income of the Hereditament from the provision of dental services (i.e. from both NHS and private work) during the last 6 months of the financial year preceding the financial year in respect of which the claim for reimbursement is being made; and
- (d) a declaration in writing from the contractor undertaking, if requested to do so by the PCT, within three months of receiving such a request to provide to the PCT documentary evidence sufficient to demonstrate accurately the proportion that its income under its GDS contract bore to the gross income of the Hereditament from the provision of dental services (i.e. from both NHS and private work) in the last 6 months of the financial year preceding the financial year in respect of which the claim for reimbursement is being made.

11.5 For the purposes of a claim for reimbursement of non-domestic rates that are due in the financial year 2006 to 2007, a contractor's income under its GDS contract for the last six months of the financial year 2005 to 2006 shall be deemed to be its income under the SDR during that period.

11.6 Where the contractor seeks reimbursement of an amount in respect of non-domestic rates in relation to more than one Hereditament, it shall submit to the PCT a separate claim in respect of each such Hereditament.

11.7 For the purposes of this Section, the gross income of a Hereditament from the provision of dental services means the gross income from any dental services provided at or associated with the Hereditament by either the contractor or any dental practitioner that the contractor employs or engages.

Amount of non-domestic rates that may be reimbursed

11.8 The amount to which the contractor is entitled in respect of a reimbursement payment in any financial year is the amount specified in the Demand Notice for that financial year less, where the gross income of the Hereditament from the provision of dental services includes any income which is not derived from its GDS contract, any amount ("the abatement") calculated in accordance with paragraph 11.9.

11.9 The amount of the abatement shall be based on the percentage that the contractor is required to declare in accordance with paragraph 11.4(c). Wherever that percentage features in column 1 of the table below (as adjusted, where appropriate, in the light of further information received by the contractor, as requested in accordance with paragraph 11.4(c)) the corresponding percentage opposite that entry in column 2 is the amount, in percentage terms, of the abatement.

COLUMN 1	COLUMN 2
Proportion which the GDS contract income bears to the gross income of the Hereditament	Proportion of Non-domestic Rates to be abated
90% or more	No abatement
80% or more but less than 90%	10%
70% or more but less than 80%	20%
60% or more but less than 70%	30%
50% or more but less than 60%	40%
40% or more but less than 50%	50%
30% or more but less than 40%	60%
20% or more but less than 30%	70%
10% or more but less than 20%	80%
Less than 10%	90%

11.10 The amount to which the contractor is entitled falls due once the PCT receives a valid application for the amount.

Conditions attached to payments under this Section

11.11 Payments under this Section, or any part of such payments, are only payable if the following conditions are satisfied—

- (a) the contractor must, as regards the Hereditament to which the payment relates, comply with its contract condition set by virtue of paragraph 12 of Schedule 3 to the GDS Contracts Regulations;
- (b) the contractor must make available any information which the PCT does not have but needs, and which the contractor either has or could reasonably be expected to obtain, in order to calculate the amount of contractor's reimbursement payments;
- (c) the contractor must inform the PCT of any changes to its circumstances which may affect its eligibility for reimbursement payments or the level of the reimbursement payments to which it may be entitled; and
- (d) all information supplied pursuant to or in accordance with sub-paragraphs (b) or (c) must be accurate.

11.12 If the contractor breaches any condition of its payments under this Section that is set out in this SFE (including the conditions that are set out in paragraph 11.11), the PCT may, in appropriate circumstances, withhold payment of all or any part of a payment under this Section that is otherwise payable.

PART 3

SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS

12. Administrative provisions

Payment arrangements

12.1 The making of payment under this SFE, on the due date, will in fact be undertaken on the PCT's behalf by the NHS BSA. The making of the payments which are required to be paid under these Directions was made a function of the NHS BSA by virtue of entry 1(a) of column 2 in the Schedule to the Functions Regulations – and by virtue of regulation 2(3)(b) of those Regulations, an PCT may only itself exercise that function where the NHS BSA is unable to do so for reasons other than a failure by the PCT to co-operate in a reasonable manner with the NHS BSA.

12.2 This means that although it remains the responsibility of the PCT to determine the correct amount of the payment (subject to the specific arrangements for making the annual DDRB adjustments which are set out in paragraphs 2.13, 2.17 and 3.7), it must be the NHS BSA that actually makes the payment to the contractor.

12.3 In practice, the PCT will be responsible for loading payment data into the NHS BSA's computerised payment system, and this system will normally generate the amount of the payments to be made.

12.4 The NHS BSA has a responsibility (under entry 5 in column 3 of the Schedule to the Functions Regulations) for reporting to the PCT evidence that it discovers in the course of carrying out its functions which it considers might be evidence of a breach of contract, an unlawful activity or an irregularity – or a matter which is otherwise unusual – but ultimate responsibility for ensuring that contractors are paid the correct amount rests with the PCT. Indeed, the PCT is responsible for any acts or omissions of the NHS BSA with regard to the payment functions that it has under the Functions Regulations, including the payment functions that the NHS BSA must perform on the PCT's behalf (see regulation 2(4) of the Functions Regulations).

12.5 Therefore, because the NHS BSA is effectively acting as the agent of the PCT as regards the making of payments, the making of payments is referred to elsewhere in this SFE (see for example paragraph 12.7) as a function of the PCT, even though the function is performed by the NHS BSA. As mentioned in the previous paragraph, this reflects the underlying legal liability, but in practice, references in this SFE to PCTs making payments will need to be construed in accordance with the arrangements for making payments described in the preceding paragraphs of this Section.

12.6 However, where reference is made in this SFE to decisions with regard to the withholding of payments or the making of deductions (see for example the next paragraph), these will need to be decisions of the PCT, although the NHS BSA will be putting the decision into effect on the PCT's behalf.

Overpayments and withheld amounts

12.7 Without prejudice to the specific provisions elsewhere in this SFE relating to overpayments of particular payments, if a PCT makes a payment to a contractor under its GDS contract pursuant to this SFE and—

- (a) the contractor was not entitled to receive all or part thereof, whether because—
 - (i) it or a person employed or engaged by it did not meet the eligibility criteria for the payment, or
 - (ii) the payment was calculated incorrectly (including where a payment on account overestimates the amount that is to fall due);
- (b) the PCT was entitled to withhold all or part of the payment because of a breach of a condition attached to the payment, but is unable to do so because the money has already been paid; or
- (c) the PCT is entitled to repayment of all or part of the money paid,

the PCT may recover the money paid by deducting an equivalent amount from any payment payable pursuant to this SFE (in instalments, where that is appropriate), and where no such deduction can be made, it is a condition of the payments made pursuant to this SFE that the contractor must pay to the PCT that equivalent amount.

12.8 Where a PCT is entitled pursuant to this SFE to withhold all or part of a payment because of a breach of a payment condition, and the PCT does so or recovers the money by deducting an equivalent amount from another payment in accordance with paragraph 12.7, it may, where it sees fit to do so, reimburse the contractor the amount withheld or recovered, if the breach is cured.

Underpayments and late payments

12.9 Without prejudice to the specific provisions elsewhere in this SFE relating to underpayments of particular payments, if the full amount of a payment that is payable pursuant to this SFE has not been paid before the date on which the payment falls due, then unless—

- (a) this is with the consent of the contractor; or
- (b) the amount of, or entitlement to, the payment, or any part thereof, is in dispute,

once it falls due, it must be paid promptly (see regulation 21(1) of the GDS Contracts Regulations).

12.10 If the contractor's entitlement to the payment is not in dispute but the amount of the payment is in dispute, then once the payment falls due, pending the resolution of the dispute, the PCT must—

- (a) pay to the contractor, promptly, an amount representing the amount that the PCT accepts that the contractor is at least entitled to; and
- (b) thereafter pay any shortfall promptly, once the dispute is finally resolved.

12.11 However, if a contractor has—

- (a) not claimed a payment to which it would be entitled pursuant to this SFE if it claimed the payment; or
- (b) claimed a payment to which it is entitled pursuant to this SFE but a PCT is unable to calculate the payment until after the payment is due to fall due because it does not have the information it needs in order to calculate that payment (all reasonable efforts to obtain the information having been undertaken),

that payment is (instead) to fall due on the first working day of the month after the month during which the PCT obtains the information it needs in order to calculate the payment.

Payments on account

12.12 Where the PCT and the contractor agree (but the PCT's agreement may be withdrawn where it is reasonable to do so and if it has given the contractor reasonable notice thereof), the PCT must pay to a contractor on account any amount that is—

- (a) the amount of, or a reasonable approximation of the amount of, a payment that is due to fall due pursuant to this SFE; or
- (b) an agreed percentage of the amount of, or a reasonable approximation of the amount of, a payment that is due to fall due pursuant to this SFE,

and if that payment results in an overpayment in respect of the payment, paragraph 12.7 applies.

Time limitation for claiming payments

12.13 Subject to paragraphs 12.14 and 12.15, contractors are only eligible for payments under this SFE if they are claimed within three months of the date on which they could first have fallen due.

12.14 Subject to paragraph 12.15, a contractor is only eligible to receive reimbursement in respect of non-domestic rates under Section 11—

- (a) where it is claiming a single payment of the full amount due as a reimbursement in respect of any financial year, if it makes a valid application within three months of the date in the Demand Notice on

which the full amount of its non-domestic rates for that financial year falls due;

- (b) where it is claiming two payments, each of half the full amount due as a reimbursement in respect of any financial year, if in relation to each application for a payment it has made a valid application within three months of the date in its Demand Notice on which the corresponding six-monthly amount of its non-domestic rates for that financial year falls due;
- (c) where it is claiming reimbursement of monthly instalments of non-domestic rates in monthly instalments, if it has made a valid application within three months of the date on which the first of the first of the monthly instalments of non-domestic rates falls due.

12.15 The PCT may waive the eligibility criteria in paragraph 12.13 and 12.14 in any case where it considers it is reasonable in all the circumstances to do so.

Payments to or in respect of suspended dentists whose suspension ceases

12.16 If the suspension of a dental practitioner from a Dental Performers List ceases, and—

- (a) that dental practitioner enters into a GDS contract that takes effect for payment purposes on 1st April 2006, any payments that the dental practitioner received under a determination made under regulation 13(17) of the Performers Lists Regulations¹ may be set off, equitably, against the payments that it is entitled to receive under its GDS contract pursuant to this SFE; or
- (b) a contractor is entitled to any payments in respect of that dental practitioner pursuant to this SFE and a payment was made to the dental practitioner pursuant to a determination made under regulation 13(17) of the Performers Lists Regulations² but the dental practitioner was not entitled to receive all or any part thereof, the amount to which the dental practitioner was not entitled may be set off, equitably, against the payments that the contractor is entitled to in respect of him pursuant to this SFE.

Effect on periodic payments of termination of a GDS contract

12.17 If a GDS contract under which a periodic payment (generally, the monthly contract payments) is payable pursuant to this SFE is terminated before the end of the period to which it relates, a proportion of that payment is to fall due on the last day on which the contract has effect. The amount of the period payment payable is to be adjusted by the fraction produced by dividing—

¹ See Annex 1.

² See Annex 1.

- (a) the number of days during the period to which the payment relates for which the GDS contract has effect; by
- (b) the total number of days in that period.

12.18 This is without prejudice to any arrangements for the recovery of money paid under the GDS contract that is recoverable as a result of the contract terminating or any breach thereof.

Recovery of charges relating to work done under pilot schemes

12.19 If a contractor was a pilot scheme provider, the PCT may recover from the contractor by withholding all or part of any payment under this SFE any amount that represents an NHS charge payable under the National Health Service (Dental Charges) Regulations 1989¹ that would have been deducted from a payment due under the pilot scheme, had the charge been made and recovered before 1st April 2006.

12.20 Similarly, if any dentist performer who is employed or engaged by the contractor—

- (a) provided services under a pilot scheme agreement held by a person other than the contractor; and
- (b) an NHS charge payable under the National Health Service (Dental Charges) Regulations 1989 was payable in respect of the services that he provided that would have been deducted from a payment due under the pilot scheme agreement, had the charge been made and recovered before 1st April 2006,

the PCT may, where it is equitable to do so, recover from the contractor by withholding all or part of any payment under this SFE the amount of the charge.

Payments in and for April 2006

12.21 If a contractor was a pilot scheme provider, once its pilot scheme agreement has terminated on 31st March 2006, it will have due to it an amount that represents the settling up of that pilot scheme agreement. It should receive—

- (a) on its old monthly payment date (i.e. at some point in April 2006) the amount that represents the settling up of its pilot scheme agreement;
- (b) and on its new payment date (i.e. on 2nd May 2006) the full amount of its first monthly payment under the GDS contract.

12.22 In practice, because processing the April 2006 monthly payments of former pilot scheme providers will involve a significant degree of manual intervention, it is likely that at least some former providers will receive estimated amounts in respect of the settling up of their pilot scheme agreements. Where this results in an overpayment

¹ S.I. 1989/394, as amended.

under the GDS contract, the PCT may, where it is equitable to do so, recover the amount of the overpayment by deducting an equivalent amount from any payment payable to the former pilot scheme provider, now a contractor, under to this SFE (in instalments, where that is appropriate). Where it is not equitable to do so, the overpayment will need to be recovered in accordance with regulation 24(2) of the Second Transitional Provisions Order.

Dispute resolution procedures

12.23 Any dispute arising out of or in connection with this SFE between a PCT and a contractor is to be resolved as a dispute arising out of or in connection with the contractor's GDS contract, i.e. in accordance with the NHS dispute resolution procedures or by the courts (see Part 7 of Schedule 3 to the GDS Contracts Regulations).

12.24 The procedures require the contractor and the PCT to make every reasonable effort to communicate and cooperate with each other with a view to resolving the dispute between themselves before referring it for determination.

13. Glossary of Terms

Acronyms

13.1 The following acronyms are used in this document–

AACV – Actual Annual Contract Value
ACVP – Annual Contact Value Payment
ADSSP – Annual Domiciliary and Sedation Services Payment
BNUDA – Baseline Number of Units of Dental Activity
BNUOA – Baseline Number of Units of Orthodontic Activity
BSA – Business Services Authority
CACV – Calculated Annual Contract Value
DDRb – Doctors' and Dentists' Review Body
GDS – General Dental Services
HMRC – Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs
MPAVC – Money Purchase Additional Voluntary Contribution
NACV – Negotiated Annual Contract Value
NHS – National Health Service
PCT – Primary Care Trust
PDS – Personal Dental Services
SFE – Statement of Financial Entitlements
SDR – Statement of Dental Remuneration

Definitions

13.2 Unless the context otherwise requires, words and expressions used in this SFE and the GDS Contract Regulations bear the meaning they bear in the GDS Contracts Regulations.

13.3 The following words and expressions used in this SFE have, unless the context otherwise requires, the meanings ascribed below.

“The 1977 Act” means the National Health Service Act 1977, as amended¹.

“2006/7 Adjustment” is an amount specified by the Secretary of State, following a recommendation of the DDRB, and which is included in paragraph 2.13.

“Actual Annual Contract Value” is to be construed in accordance with paragraph 4.1.

“Annual Reconciliation Report” is to be construed in accordance with paragraph 4.21.

“Annual Domiciliary and Sedation Service Payment” is to be construed in accordance with paragraphs 6.1 to 6.4.

“Baseline Number of Units of Dental Activity” is to be construed in accordance with paragraph 2.3(a).

“Baseline Number of Units of Orthodontic Activity” is to be construed in accordance with paragraph 2.3(b).

“Billing Authority” has the same meaning as in Schedule 9 to the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (generally, district councils and London Borough Councils).

“Calculated Annual Contract Value is the amount determined in accordance with Section 2.

“Confinement” means the birth of a living child, or the birth of a child, whether living or not, after 24 weeks of pregnancy.

“Contractor” means a person entering into, or who has entered into, a GDS Contract with a PCT.

“Demand Notice” means the notice served by the Billing Authority stating, in accordance with regulations under paragraph 2(2)(g) of Schedule 9 to the Local Government Act 1988, the payment by way of Non-Domestic Rates that a Non-Domestic Ratepayer is required to make in respect of a financial year.

“Dental List” means—

- (a) a Dental Performers List;
- (b) a list of persons undertaking to provide general dental services prepared in accordance with regulations made under section 36 of the 1977 Act; or

¹ This Act was significantly amended (insofar as is relevant to this SFE) by the Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003.

- (c) a list of persons approved for the purposes of assisting in the provision of general dental services prepared in accordance with regulations made under section 43D of the 1977 Act,

or an equivalent list in Scotland or Northern Ireland.

“Dental Performers List” means a list of dental practitioners prepared in accordance with the Performers Lists Regulations;

”Dentist” means a person registered in the dentists register under the Dentists Act 1984.

“Dentist Performer” means a dental practitioner–

- (a) whose name is included in a Dental Performers List of a PCT;
- (b) who performs dental services under a GDS Contract; and
- (c) who is employed or engaged by a contractor.

“Employed or engaged” is to be construed in accordance with paragraph 1.5.

“Employing Authority” has the same meaning as in the NHS Pension Scheme Regulations.

“Expected date of confinement” means the date on which the birth of a child is expected.

“Expected week of confinement” means the week in which the birth of a child is expected.

“Financial year” means a period of 12 months ending with 31st March in any year.

“First Transitional Provisions Order” means the General Dental Services and Personal Dental Services Transitional Provisions Order 2005¹.

“Functions Regulations” means the Functions of Primary Care Trusts and Strategic Health Authorities and the NHS Business Services Authority (Awdurdod Gwasanaethau Busnes y GIG) (Primary Dental Services) (England) Regulations 2006².

“GDS contract” means a general dental services contract under section 28K of the 1977 Act.

¹ 2005/3435.

² S.I. 2006/596.

“GDS Contracts Regulations” means the National Health Service (General Dental Services Contracts) Regulations 2005¹.

“Hereditament” shall be construed in accordance with paragraph 11.2(a).

“Money Purchase Additional Voluntary Contributions” means contributions to a Money Purchase Additional Voluntary Contributions Provider in respect of what, for the purposes of the National Health Service Pension Scheme (Additional Voluntary Contributions) Regulations 2000², is a free-standing additional voluntary contributions scheme.

“Money Purchase Additional Voluntary Contributions Provider” means an insurance company providing what, for the purposes of the National Health Service (Additional Voluntary Contributions) Regulations 2000, is a free-standing additional voluntary contributions scheme.

“Monthly Annual Contract Value Payments” are the payments, based on the Actual Annual Contract Value of a GDS contract, which are to be determined in accordance with Section 4.

“Monthly Annual Domiciliary and Sedation Services Payment” is the amount determined in accordance with paragraphs 6.4 to 6.12.

“Monthly Payment Schedule” shall be construed in accordance with paragraph 4.19.

“Monthly Seniority Payment” is a payment under Section 7.

“Negotiated Annual Contract Value” is the amount determined in accordance with Section 3.

“Net monthly Pensionable Earnings” means a Dentist Performer’s monthly Pensionable Earnings (i.e. one twelfth of his Pensionable Earnings for the financial year into which the month falls), net of any Pensionable Earnings that are attributable to any Monthly Seniority Payment.

“NHS Business Services Authority” means the NHS Business Services Authority established by the NHS Business Services Authority (Awdurdod Gwasanaethau Busnes y GIG) (Establishment and Constitution) Order 2005³.

“NHS charge” means a charge made to the patient for provision of services pursuant to the NHS Charges Regulations.

“NHS Charges Regulations” means the National Health Service (Dental Charges) Regulations 2005⁴.

¹ S.I. 2005/3361.

² S.I. 2000/619.

³ S.I. 2005/2414.

⁴ S.I. 2005/3361.

“NHS Pension Scheme Regulations” means the National Health Service (Pension Scheme) Regulations 1995¹.

“Non-Domestic Ratepayer” means the person who is liable under section 43 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 to pay an amount in respect of Non-Domestic Rates.

“Non-Domestic Rates” means the non-domestic rates payable under Part III of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

“Parental Leave Pay Period” is to be construed in accordance with paragraph 9.7.

“Partner”, in the context of a personal relationship (as opposed to a partner to a partnership agreement), means a member of a couple who are living as husband and wife or as civil partners, or who are living in like family arrangements.

“Paternity leave payment” includes payment for adoption leave for an adoptive parent who is not the main care provider.

“PDS agreement” means section 28C arrangements.

“PDS Agreement Holder” means a person who is a party to, or persons who are parties to, a PDS agreement, but who is or who are not the commissioners of the services provided under that agreement.

“PDS SFE” means the directions given under section 28E(3A) of the 1977 Act in respect of PDS agreements.

“Pensionable Earnings” means the earnings derived from a GDS contract or PDS agreement which are treated as the pensionable earnings of a Dentist Performer under the NHS Pension Scheme Regulations.

“Pensionable Earnings Ceiling” has the meaning given in paragraph 1 of Schedule 2 to the NHS Pension Scheme Regulations (medical and dental practitioners – additional definitions).

“Performers Lists Regulations” means the National Health Service (Performers Lists) Regulations 2004²

“Period of sickness” means a period beginning with the date on which a Dentist Performer ceases to provide dental services under the contract because of sickness and ending with the date on which that Dentist Performer is once again available to provide dental services under the contract.

“Pilot scheme agreement” means an agreement made under Part 1 of the National Health Service (Primary Care) Act 1997³.

¹ S.I. 1995/300, as amended.

² S.I. 2004/585, as amended.

³ 1997 c.46.

“Pilot scheme provider” means a person, other than a PCT, who is a party to a pilot scheme agreement.

“SDR” means the Statement of Dental Remuneration under regulation 19(3) of the National Health Service (General Dental Services) Regulations 1992, as it had effect on 31st March 2006.

“Second Transitional Provisions Order” means the General Dental Services, Personal Dental Services and Abolition of the Dental Practice Board Transitional and Consequential Provisions Order 2006¹.

“Trainer” means a Dentist Performer–

- (a) who is employed or engaged by a contractor; and
- (b) whose application to act as a Trainer in a vocational training scheme for general dental practice has been approved by a selection committee established by a Local Postgraduate Dental Education Committee, and who remains an approved person by such a committee.

“Type 1 dental practitioner” has the meaning given in regulation A2 of the NHS Pension Scheme Regulations (interpretation).

“Type 2 dental practitioner” has the meaning given in regulation A2 of the NHS Pension Scheme Regulations.

“Vocational Trainee” means a dental practitioner who is employed by a contractor as a Vocational Trainee as a consequence of a placement arrangement made by the local Postgraduate Dental Dean or Director of Postgraduate Dental Education.

¹ S.I. 2006/562.

ANNEX 1

STATUTORY DETERMINATION

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE, ENGLAND

The Performers Lists (Suspended Dentists' NHS Earnings) Determination 2006

The Secretary of State for Health makes the following determination in exercise of the powers conferred by regulation 13(17) of the National Health Service (Performers Lists) Regulations 2004⁽¹⁾.

Citation, commencement and application

1.—(1) This Determination may be cited as the Performers Lists (Suspended Dentists' NHS Earnings) Determination 2006 and shall come into force on 1st April 2006.

(2) This Determination applies in relation to England only.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In this determination—

“the 1995 Regulations” means the National Health Service Pension Scheme Regulations 1995⁽²⁾;

“the 2004 Regulations” means the National Health Service (Performers Lists) Regulations 2004⁽³⁾;

“the 2005 Determination” means the Secretary of State's determination for payments in consequence of suspension by a PCT that was annexed to the SDR;

“the 2005 Regulations” means the National Health Service (Performers Lists) Amendment Regulations 2005⁽⁴⁾;

“assistant practitioner” has the same meaning as in the 1995 Regulations, as they had effect on 31st March 2006;

“employed or engaged”, in relation to a dental practitioner's relationship with a provider, includes, in addition to a dental practitioner who has a contract of service or for services with a provider—

- (a) a dental practitioner who is a provider;
- (b) a dental practitioner who is a partner in a provider that is a partnership; and
- (c) a dental practitioner who is a director of a dental corporation which is a provider;

“GDS contract” has the same meaning as in the 1995 Regulations;

⁽¹⁾ S.I. 2004/585.

⁽²⁾ S.I. 1995/300; as amended.

⁽³⁾ Relevant amendments have been made by S.I. 2005/3491.

⁽⁴⁾ S.I. 2005/3491.

“monthly pensionable earnings”, as regards any month, means one twelfth of the earnings that are the pensionable earnings of the dental practitioner from general dental services, piloted services or primary dental services for the financial year in which the month falls;

“PCT” means Primary Care Trust;

“PDS agreement” has the same meaning as in the 1995 Regulations;

“pensionable earnings” has the same meaning as in Schedule 2 to the 1995 Regulations, and accordingly—

- (a) in the case of earnings prior to 1st April 2006—
 - (i) as regards principal practitioners, means practitioner income less the appropriate sum for practice expenses and, to the extent required, the earnings of assistants in the practitioner’s employment, or
 - (ii) as regards assistant practitioners, means fees or regular payments (including salary or wages) paid to the practitioner in respect of general dental services or piloted services, excluding bonuses and payments to cover expenses or for overtime; and
- (b) in the case of earnings from 1st April 2006—
 - (i) as regards type 1 dental practitioners, means practitioner income, including earnings derived from monthly seniority payments, but taking into account any relevant pensionable earnings ceiling, or
 - (ii) as regards type 2 dental practitioners, means fees or regular payments (including salary or wages) paid to the practitioner by a provider in respect of the performance of primary dental services, excluding bonuses and payments to cover expenses or for overtime;

“principal practitioner” has the same meaning as in the 1995 Regulations, as they had effect on 31st March 2006;

“provider” means—

- (a) a person (including a partnership) who has entered into a GDS contract with a PCT;
- (b) a person who is a party to, or persons who are parties to, a PDS agreement, but who is or who are not the commissioner of the services provided under the agreement; or
- (c) a PCT that is itself providing services under section 16CA(2) of the National Health Service Act 1977⁽¹⁾ (primary dental services) or under section 28C arrangements;

“SDR” means the Statement of Dental Remuneration under regulation 19(3) of the National Health Service (General Dental Services) Regulations 1992⁽²⁾, as it had effect on 31st March 2006;

“suspended dentist” means a dental practitioner who is suspended from a dental performers list (whether under regulation 13 of the 2004 Regulations or by virtue of paragraph 11 of Schedule 1 to the 2005 Regulations);

“type 1 dental practitioner” has the same meaning as in the 1995 Regulations; and

“type 2 dental practitioner” has the same meaning as in the 1995 Regulations.

(2) In determining the “normal monthly NHS remuneration” of a dental practitioner for the purposes of this Determination, a PCT shall—

- (a) have regard only to remuneration relating to the performance of primary dental services; and
- (b) determine an amount which, in the PCT’s view, represents a reasonable amount having regard to the pensionable earnings of the dental practitioner in the most recently available six complete months of data relating to his earnings.

⁽¹⁾ Section 16CA was inserted by the Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003 (c.43), section 170.

⁽²⁾ S.I. 1992/661; as amended.

Entitlement to payments by virtue of this determination

3.—(1) A suspended dentist may be entitled to payments from a PCT from whose dental performers list he is suspended (“the relevant PCT”), or a provider by whom he is employed or engaged may be entitled to payments in respect of him, if—

- (a) on 31st March 2006 the dentist was in receipt of payments pursuant to the 2005 Determination; or
- (b) immediately prior to his suspension or the circumstances that precipitated his suspension the dentist was employed or engaged by a provider,

and apart from his suspension from a dental performers list, he is able and permitted to perform primary dental services.

(2) Subject to the following provisions of this Determination, where by virtue of sub-paragraph (1) a suspended dentist may be entitled to payments from a PCT, he shall be entitled to payments from it, in respect of each complete calendar month or part month for which he is suspended by it, if—

- (a) in the case of a dentist who is a provider—
 - (i) he holds a PDS agreement and the normal monthly payments under his PDS agreement (or a *pro rata* amount in the case of part months) have been suspended, or
 - (ii) he is still paid his normal monthly payments under his GDS contract or PDS agreement but, notwithstanding his suspension, he is required to provide units of dental or orthodontic activity under his GDS contract or PDS agreement during his suspension;
- (b) in the case of a dentist who is not a provider, on 31st March 2006 he was in receipt of payments under the 2005 Determination; or
- (c) he is a dental practitioner to whom neither paragraph (a) nor (b) applies but—
 - (i) he is, or immediately prior to the circumstances that precipitated his suspension was, employed or engaged by a provider, and
 - (ii) he is not entitled to his normal monthly remuneration from the provider (or a *pro rata* amount in the case of part months).

(3) Subject to the following provisions of this Determination, where by virtue of sub-paragraph (1) a provider may be entitled to payments in respect of a suspended dentist from a PCT, that provider (if it is not itself the PCT that has suspended the dentist) shall be entitled to payments from the PCT in respect of the dentist, in respect of each complete calendar month or part month for which the dentist is suspended by the PCT, if the dentist is not entitled to payments pursuant sub-paragraph (2) but—

- (a) the dentist is, or immediately prior to the circumstances that precipitated his suspension was, employed or engaged by the provider; and
- (b) the dentist is entitled to his normal monthly remuneration from the provider but the PCT is satisfied that—
 - (i) the provider has incurred costs in providing primary dental services that would have been provided by the dentist, had he not been suspended, and
 - (ii) it is unreasonable for the provider to have to bear all those costs itself.

Amount of payments

4.—(1) Subject to the following provisions of this Determination, if a suspended dentist is entitled to a payment from a PCT by virtue of paragraph 3(2), the amount to which he is entitled, in respect of each complete calendar month or part month for which he is suspended, is his monthly pensionable earnings (or a *pro rata* amount in the case of part months)—

- (a) except a case where paragraph (b) applies—
 - (i) immediately prior to his suspension, or

- (ii) where appropriate, immediately prior to the circumstances that led to his suspension; or
 - (b) in the case of a suspended dentist who on 31st March 2006 was in receipt of payments under the 2005 Determination, for March 2006.
- (2) If in respect of any month or part month for which a suspended dentist is entitled to a payment from a PCT by virtue of paragraph 3(2)—
- (a) he is entitled to receive—
 - (i) any remuneration from any alternative work that he has taken on following his suspension, or
 - (ii) any insurance payments by reason of his cessation or reduction of work or income, the sum which he is entitled to receive pursuant to sub-paragraph (1) shall be reduced by £1 for each complete £2 which he is entitled to receive in respect of the alternative work or as an insurance payment; or
 - (b) he is entitled to receive any remuneration which relates to the provision of primary dental services from any provider by which he was employed or engaged immediately prior to—
 - (i) his suspension, or
 - (ii) the circumstances which gave rise to his suspension,
 the sum which he is entitled to receive pursuant to sub-paragraph (1) shall be reduced by £9 for each complete £10 which he is entitled to receive from the provider.
- (3) In a case to which paragraph 3(3) applies, the amount to which the provider is entitled in respect of the suspended dentist in respect of each complete calendar month or part month for which the dentist is suspended, is the amount of the additional costs that the PCT is satisfied that—
- (a) the provider has incurred in providing primary dental services during that month or part month that would have been provided by the suspended dentist, had he not been suspended; and
 - (b) it would be unreasonable for the provider to have to bear.

Arrangements for payment

5.—(1) Any sum payable under this Determination shall be paid subject to any lawful deductions of income tax, national insurance and superannuation contributions by the PCT.

(1) Any sum payable under this Determination to a suspended dentist who is employed or engaged by a provider may be paid to the provider (provider payments will in any event be paid to the provider) ⁽¹⁾.

Conditions of payment

6. No payments shall be payable pursuant to this Determination unless—

- (a) the PCT making the payment is satisfied that the suspended dentist or provider that is otherwise entitled to a payment is entitled to that specific sum;
- (b) the PCT has been provided by the suspended dentist (unless received from another source) with accurate and reliable details of—
 - (i) the suspended dentist's monthly pensionable earnings—
 - (aa) in the case of suspended dentist who on 31st March 2006 was in receipt of payments under the 2005 Determination, for March 2006, and

⁽¹⁾ In practice, payments made to a provider of services under a GDS contract or PDS agreement will generally be made by the NHS Business Services Authority on behalf of the PCT that has commissioned the services.

- (bb) in all other cases, immediately prior to his suspension and immediately prior to the circumstances that led to his suspension;
- (ii) any insurance policy he has taken out in order to provide him with payments if his work ceases or is reduced,
and has warranted that the information provided in accordance with this paragraph is accurate;
- (c) the suspended dentist provides the PCT with accurate and reliable information about any alternative work he undertakes during the period of his suspension, and undertakes to inform the PCT immediately where—
 - (i) he takes on any such work, or
 - (ii) there is any other change to his circumstances that might affect his entitlement to payments under of this Determination,

but a PCT may make payments on account to or in respect of a suspended dentist of amounts that are likely to be payable to or in respect of him under this Determination, in appropriate circumstances.

Overpayments

7. If a PCT makes a payment to or in respect of a suspended dentist pursuant to this Determination but the dentist or the provider was not entitled to receive all or any part of it, whether because—

- (a) the conditions relating to or underlying entitlement to the payment are or were not met; or
- (b) the payment was calculated incorrectly (including where a payment on account overestimates the amount that is to fall due),

the PCT may recover the amount of the overpayment by deducting an equivalent amount from any other payment payable under this Determination to the person who received the overpayment (without prejudice to its other powers to recover the overpayment).

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State for Health

29 March 2006

Chris Audrey
A member of the Senior Civil Service
Department of Health

ANNEX 2

DETERMINATION III – SENIORITY PAYMENTS

INTERPRETATION

1. (1) In this Determination, unless the context otherwise requires -

“accumulated gross fees” means gross fees authorised for payment by the Board in respect of a period since 1 April 2005;

“approved postgraduate education session” means a session of not less than two-and-a-half hours' duration which forms the whole or a part of a course approved by the regional Postgraduate Dental Dean / Director of postgraduate dental education;

“Board” means the Dental Practice Board;

“Financial Year” means the period beginning on 1 April in one year and ending on 31 March in the next year;

“PCT” means a Primary Care Trust;

“payment period” means a period since 1 April 2005;

“pensionable earnings” means that remuneration defined -

(a) in Schedule 2 to the National Health Service Pension Scheme Regulations 1995 (*); or

(b) in Schedule 1 to the National Health Service Superannuation Scheme (Scotland) Regulations 1995 (#);

which is paid to a dentist for the provision of general dental services whether or not such a dentist is entitled to participate in the benefits provided under those Regulations, as if that definition -

(i) excluded payments made under this Determination and remuneration as a salaried practitioner; and

(ii) disregarded any limit on remuneration of which account shall be taken under those Regulations;

"quarter" means a period of 3 months ending on 31 March, 30 June, 30 September or 31 December;

"seniority payment" has the meaning assigned to it in paragraph 2 of this Determination;

"superannuation benefit" means any payment, other than a refund of contributions, made to a dentist by virtue of the application of

- (a) the National Health Service Pension Scheme Regulations 1995; or
- (b) the National Health Service Superannuation Scheme (Scotland) Regulations 1995; or
- (c) the corresponding provisions of the law in force in Northern Ireland or the Isle of Man;

as a result of his providing general dental services.

(2) In this Determination a reference to any enactment or statutory instrument is to that enactment or statutory instrument as amended or re-enacted by any subsequent enactment or statutory instrument.

(3) In this Determination a reference to a numbered paragraph is to the paragraph bearing that number in this Determination and a reference in a paragraph to a numbered sub-paragraph is to the sub-paragraph bearing that number in that paragraph.

(4) This Determination applies to England only, shall come into force on 1 April 2005.

ENTITLEMENT

2. (1) Subject to the provisions of sub-paragraph (5), a PCT shall, with effect from the first day of a quarter on which a dentist shall have fulfilled the conditions set out in sub-paragraphs (2) and (3) and complied with the requirements set out in sub-paragraph (4), authorise the Board to pay to the dentist in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 4 such additional remuneration as is appropriate. This additional remuneration will be referred to as a seniority payment.

(2) The conditions referred to in sub-paragraph (1) are -

- (a) the dentist has reached the age of 55 years on or before the first day of the relevant quarter;
- (b) the dentist has provided general dental services other than as a salaried dentist or as an assistant for a period of not less than 10 years since July 1948, of which not less than a period of 5 years (whether or not either of such periods has been continuous) has been within the period of 10 years ending on the first day of the relevant quarter; and
- (c) the dentist has, within the 10 years ending 31 March 2005, received pensionable earnings of not less than £207,000.

(3) A dentist, who becomes entitled to seniority payments for the first time on or after 1 April 1992, shall have undertaken not less than two approved postgraduate education sessions in the five financial quarters prior to the first day of the quarter to which the claim relates.

(4) The requirements referred to in sub-paragraph (1) are that an application for a seniority payment shall be made on a form which shall be obtained from a PCT, on whose dental list the dentist is included, shall be made by recorded delivery to that PCT, and shall include particulars of the fulfilment by the dentist of the conditions set out in sub-paragraphs (2) and (3).

(5) A PCT shall not authorise the Board to pay a seniority payment to a dentist

(a) to whom a seniority payment has by virtue of the preceding sub-paragraphs of this paragraph been authorised by another PCT; and

(b) for a quarter in which he ceases to be on that PCT's dental list and in respect of which a seniority payment is authorised by another PCT.

3. A dentist shall cease from being entitled to a seniority payment from the beginning of the first day of -

(a) the quarter in which his name is removed from the dental list pursuant to regulation 9 of the National Health Service (General Dental Services) Regulations 1992, as amended; or

(b) the quarter immediately following any quarter in which he receives a superannuation benefit.

PAYMENTS

4. A seniority payment shall be calculated and payable as follows -

(a) for the period from 1 April 2005, where a dentist is or becomes entitled to seniority payments on or after 1 April 2005 by virtue of the provisions of paragraph 2, a seniority payment shall be payable in the first and each subsequent quarter in which he is entitled, provided -

(i) that his accumulated gross fees to the end of the relevant quarter amount to at least the sums listed below -

Quarter ending	Accumulated gross fees
30 June 2005	£6,250
30 September 2005	£12,500
31 December 2005	£18,750
31 March 2006	£25,000

Or;

- (ii) that his accumulated gross fees are less than the minimum figure stipulated in sub-paragraph (a), but at least 90% of his earnings from dentistry was attributable to accumulated gross fees; and he applies for a seniority payment by completing the form provided to him, for that purpose, by the PCT and returning it to the PCT.

The seniority payments shall be 10% of accumulated gross fees in the relevant quarter, less any seniority payment already made in respect of any previous quarter or quarters in the payment period (or in the case of a dentist who becomes eligible for seniority payments after 1 April 2005, less an amount equal to any seniority payment that would have been made if he had been entitled to seniority payments on 1 April 2005), up to a maximum accumulated gross fee income by the end of the relevant quarter as listed below;

Quarter ending	Accumulated gross fees
30 June 2005	£18,750
30 September 2005	£37,500
31 December 2005	£56,250
31 March 2005	£75,000

(b) subject to sub-paragraph (c), a seniority payment shall be payable at the end of the quarter following the one to which it relates;

(c) no seniority payment shall be made by the Board to a dentist in respect of any period before the quarter immediately preceding the quarter in which his application for a seniority payment is delivered to a PCT.