

Friday 22 April 2022

## Conference Report 2022

### 1. Introduction from the Chair of Conference

Platinum sponsor



It was a privilege and a pleasure to chair the Conference of Scottish Local Dental Committees 2022. However, it is fair to say that as the date drew ever closer both myself and the Conference Agenda Committee (CAC) grew increasingly apprehensive with the realisation that this would actually be a face-to-face experience - the first since 2019 - and following a three-year absence it was apparent that much had to be relearned to ensure that the day would run both smoothly and successfully.

With the resumption of 'normal service' we were delighted and grateful to welcome Dental Protection as our Platinum Sponsor and it was a pleasure to invite Helen Kaney to speak on their behalf. In addition, we were supported by Braemar Finance, Chase de Vere, Christie & Co, Condis, DDU, Kerr, MDDUS, Practice Plan and Wesleyan, and I would also like to thank them for their sponsorship. Practitioner Services Division (PSD) also supported the event with two well-known names in attendance - Linda Clelland and George Anderson. Hopefully they were also well-known faces by the end of the day!

The first of our guest speakers was Humza Yousaf (Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care) who was followed by Tom Ferris (Chief Dental Officer) and Gillian Leslie (Deputy Chief Dental Officer). All three were well received by the conference with delegates proffering a steady stream of questions relevant

to the future of dental service provision. Whilst all answers may not have been exactly what the conference would have liked to hear, the session was engaging for both sides of the dental fence. The final guest of the morning was David McColl (Chair of the BDA's Scottish Dental Practice Committee, SDPC) who was warmly welcomed by the conference and answered a range of queries from delegates.

The afternoon was dominated by the motions which brought healthy discussion and debate to the session, which was appreciated by all.

It is custom for the Conference to support a charity and this year was no exception with The Canmore Trust being chosen. We were delighted to welcome Professor John Gibson to the Pre-Conference Dinner and I would like to thank everyone who contributed to raising over £2,600 - a truly magnificent sum.

Finally, I have to say that this conference could not have taken place without the input and support from all members of the CAC and also the BDA team - in particular Kirsten Phillips who has guided me throughout the many months of preparation and whose expertise has been unflinching.

I wholeheartedly look forward to welcoming you to Conference 2023.

**Lindsay C. Milton, Chair 2022**

## 2. Pre-Conference Dinner – Thursday 21 April 2022

A well-attended drinks reception was held before the black-tie dinner at the Stirling Court Hotel. The Chair warmly welcomed all guests and spoke about how great it was to finally be able to meet face-to-face again after having to cancel the conference in 2020 and host an online event in 2021.

After dinner, Christina Ferry, Chair Elect, and Elizabeth Glass, Conference Treasurer, presented Lifetime Achievement Awards to:

**Helen Milroy**  
(Greater Glasgow & Clyde LDC)

**Paddy Ferry**  
(Lothian LDC)

**Kevin Clark**  
(Lanarkshire LDC)

**Gerard Boyle**  
(Greater Glasgow & Clyde LDC)

**Gordon Stewart**  
(Lanarkshire LDC)

**Alasdair Watson**  
(Greater Glasgow & Clyde LDC)

The Chair offered his congratulations to Immediate Past Conference Chair Judith Brady and presented her with a Past Chair medal. Professor John Gibson then provided a poignant introduction to the 2022 chosen conference charity, The Canmore Trust, and this was followed by a game of 'Heads and Tails' to raise donations for this important cause.



**Helen Milroy**  
Lifetime Achievement Award Winner



**Paddy Ferry**  
Lifetime Achievement Award Winner



**Kevin Clark**  
Lifetime Achievement Award Winner



**Gerard Boyle**  
Lifetime Achievement Award Winner



**Gordon Stewart**  
Lifetime Achievement Award Winner



**Alasdair Watson**  
Lifetime Achievement Award Winner



**Lindsay Milton**  
Chair



**Judith Brady**  
Immediate Past Chair and Lindsay Milton, Chair



**Professor John Gibson**  
The Canmore Trust

## Conference - Friday 22 April 2022 – Morning Session

### 3. Chair's Opening Remarks and votes on changes to the Conference Standing Orders

The Chair welcomed everyone to the 22nd Annual Conference, and asked delegates and guests to visit the sponsors and PSD representatives during the refreshment breaks.

Three proposed amendments to the Conference Standing Orders were presented by the Chair and voted on by conference. All three were passed unanimously:

- Allow CAC members the same voting rights as other conference delegates.
- CAC to have the ability to reappoint a replacement CAC member, office bearer or any associated conference post on an interim basis should any member be unable to fulfil their duties for any reason.
- Extend membership of the CAC from two to three members elected from the Conference.

### 4. Humza Yousaf, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care

Humza Yousaf was Conference's first speaker, and the focus of his session was Pandemic Recovery. He began his session by thanking the dental profession for all their hard work during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Cabinet Secretary outlined the challenges facing dentistry and acknowledged that the dental sector had been hit particularly hard, with colleagues having to navigate a unique set of challenges such restrictive Infection, Prevention and Control guidance and fallow time due to Aerosol Generating Procedures. He noted that the Scottish Government were aware of these pressures and stressed and that they had tried to support the profession while acknowledging that they had not always got everything right.

The Cabinet Secretary went onto outline the Government's plans for the recovery and reform of NHS dentistry, including their manifesto pledge for free NHS dentistry for all within the next four years. The first stage of the plan had already been implemented with the introduction of free NHS dentistry for 18-26-year-olds in summer 2021. He stressed that the Government would engage with key stakeholders and the profession during long-term contractual reform discussions.

The Cabinet Secretary went onto discuss the support the Government had provided the profession with during the pandemic, including emergency Covid Support Payments, which were introduced at the start of the pandemic, and more recent interim funding consisting of enhanced Item of Service Fees and the introduction of a 1.7 multiplier for all fees. The continued supply of PPE at no charge and funding allowances for speed-increasing handpieces and ventilation were also noted. He stressed that this support was vital to address the backlog of dental appointments and to continue to support the wellbeing of those in dentistry while they continued to deal with difficult circumstances. The Cabinet Secretary concluded his address by thanking the profession and noting that reform of the dental sector was a main priority for the Government, with more still to be done in the form of pay awards and improving mental health.

The presentation was followed by a lively question-and-answer session from the audience which covered a range of issues, including: the Scottish Government's policy to abolish NHS dentistry charges; long-term contractual reform; engagement and communication with the profession; and workforce challenges.



**Humza Yousaf**  
Cabinet Secretary for Health  
and Social Care



**Cabinet Secretary and Chair**

## 5. Tom Ferris, Chief Dental Officer and Gillian Leslie, Deputy Chief Dental Officer, Scottish Government

The Chief Dental Officer, Tom Ferris, and Deputy Chief Dental Officer, Gillian Leslie, addressed the audience and answered their queries during an open question-and-answer session. Conference attendees were keen to engage with the CDO and DCDO and asked a number of challenging and constructive questions, which included: the urgent need for long-term contractual reform and how the Government planned to engage with stakeholders; lengthy waiting times for paediatric extractions under general anaesthetic; recruitment and retention of Dental Care Professionals; and consistency of Infection, Prevention and Control guidance across the UK. One question specifically asked about the timeline for a new model of care and when the profession would be consulted about this. In response, the Chief Dental Officer noted that the process will have started, including consultation with the profession, by Conference 2023.



Tom Ferris (CDO) and Gillian Leslie (Deputy CDO)



CDO, Chair and DCDO



David McColl, Chair of SDPC



## 6. David McColl, Chair of SDPC

David McColl focused on the work of SDPC over the past year. He advised that a summary of the progress on the motions passed at the 2021 Conference, which were adopted as **SDPC policy**, could be found within the delegate **conference packs**, and that he was happy to answer questions about this during the question-and-answer part of his session.

David summarised the roles and responsibilities of SDPC. SDPC represents all non-salaried general dental practitioners in Scotland practising in the NHS and/or privately. The committee's role is to negotiate with the Chief Dental Officer and Scottish Ministers (and other appropriate bodies) on matters relating to the delivery and remuneration of dental services provided by non-salaried general dental practitioners, including orthodontists and assistants, working in Scotland.

He then provided a summary of the work of SDPC over the past year, which included extensive discussions with the Scottish Government about the interim funding model that was introduced on 1 April, and SDPC's continued opposition to a return to the Statement of Dental Remuneration system and pre-Covid "treadmill". He noted that the SDPC Executive Sub-Committee had recently been liaising with Tim McDonnell, Scottish Government Director for Primary Care, in addition to the Chief Dental Officer and his team. He advised that SDPC's current position was that they continued to try and engage with the Scottish Government about the interim funding model and aimed to begin negotiations about long-term contractual reform as soon as possible.

David's presentation was followed by an engaging question-and-answer session, including questions about disappointing engagement from the Scottish Government during the recent funding changes, the struggles facing Vocational Trainees, and crown indemnity. A copy of David's presentation slides can be found on the [conference website](#).

## 7. Elizabeth Glass, Conference Treasurer

Elizabeth Glass, Conference Treasurer, presented the conference accounts for the year ending 31 August 2021. Expenditure for the year had exceeded income by £1,100 but this was deemed acceptable as spending for the year had been unusual due to the 2021 Conference being a virtual event, rather than face-to-face. In addition, income had been unusual as there was only one Platinum Sponsor for the 2021 Conference and no regular sponsors.

There were reserve funds in the account totalling £25,800 which was deemed a sufficient back-up to host an emergency conference if required. Elizabeth went on to explain that spending had returned to 'normal' levels due to hosting a face-to-face conference this year, and as a result, she anticipated the 2022 accounts to resemble pre-pandemic spending levels, albeit with marginally increased costs. She added that conference welcomed the inclusion of Grampian LDC this year as well as their contribution to the levy fund.

Conference voted unanimously to keep the levy for the 2023 Conference at £8 per dentist, and Elizabeth noted that LDCs would be invoiced in early spring 2023.

A copy of the Conference Accounts can be found on the [conference website](#).

## 8. Helen Kaney, Lead Dento-legal Consultant and Head of Dental Services, Dental Protection, Platinum Sponsor

Helen Kaney, Lead Dento-legal Consultation and Head of Dental Services for Dental Protection provided an overview of the range of services offered by the company. She explained that Dental Protection were the world's leading dental defence organisation, providing dento-legal advice, indemnity and assisting with claims, complaints and GDC cases for almost 130 years. The organisation provides occurrence-based cover, which is the "gold standard", and Helen explained the important differences between occurrence-based and claims-made cover. She noted that Dental Protection offers discretionary cover, with no financial limits, which allows flexibility when assisting with claims and complaints. Helen advised that members have access to an exclusive online wellbeing service, as well as CPD via the Prism platform.

The Chair thanked Helen for her presentation and Dental Protection's support this year as the 2022 Conference Platinum Sponsor.



Helen Kaney



Helen Kaney and Chair



Excellent engaging discussions and debate”

## Conference – Friday 22 April 2022 – Afternoon Session

### 9. Election Results 2022-2023 Session

Congratulations to the following office bearers who were either newly elected or re-elected to various conference posts. A description of each role can be viewed on the [conference website](#).

- **Auditors of Conference:** Kieran Fallon and Robert Sweeney (retired LDC members)
- **Members of the Conference Agenda Committee (CAC):** Paul MacDonald (Lanarkshire LDC), Helen Dennison (Greater Glasgow & Clyde LDC) and Elaine Winter (Greater Glasgow & Clyde LDC)
- **Representatives to the 2022 UK LDC Conference:** Anita Belbin (Greater Glasgow & Clyde LDC) and Kevin Clark (Lanarkshire LDC)
- **Representative to the Scottish Dental Practice Committee (SDPC):** Kenneth McDonald (Greater Glasgow & Clyde LDC)
- **Representatives to the Board of Management of the Scottish Dental Fund (SDF):** Elizabeth Glass (Greater Glasgow & Clyde LDC) and Kieran Fallon (retired LDC member). Elected for the next three years 2022-2025

### 10. Roy McBurnie, Chair, and Jim Law, Treasurer, of the Scottish Dental Fund

Roy McBurnie and Jim Law of the Scottish Dental Fund (SDF) provided an update on the Board of Management Audited Accounts 2020/2021 and the levy.

Roy explained that the role of the SDF is to ensure that dentists elected to SDPC to represent the profession in negotiations and discussions with the Scottish Government, and other relevant parties, are not financially disadvantaged by lost clinical time when attending meetings. He noted that funds are gathered from LDCs who collect voluntary contributions (levies) from dentists in their respective NHS Board areas. He noted that the levy/mandate was voluntary in Scotland, unlike England and Wales where it is mandatory, and for this reason encouraged all LDC members to contribute to the fund. He also passed on his well wishes to Mike Arthur, a long-standing member and most recent Vice Chair of SDF and thanked him for his dutiful service over the years.

Jim provided an update on the SDF accounts and proposed recommendations to the levy. He explained that SDF funding was running at a surplus of £10,019 and that the Board had reserves of £257,396. The levy was set at £2 per month and contributions were up by £4,390. Looking at year-end figures (at September 2021) income was up by 8.3% and expenditure was down by 29.2%. SDPC gross costs had decreased by £17,869 and funding recovered from the British Dental Guild (BDG) was down by £1,412. The SDF sessional rate (2021) of £340 matched the BDG rate.

Examining the figures from Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 of the current financial year, income was up by 6.7% and expenditure was down by 45%, however it was likely that face-to-face meetings would increase over the coming year, resulting in an increase in expenditure. For this reason, there was a dilemma about what to do about the cost of the levy. The rate



Keep up more of the same –  
it was a great conference”

could be left the same, risking an increased surplus of funds, or reduced, risking claims costs returning to previous levels.

On this basis, Jim made a recommendation to conference which was voted on:

#### **Recommendation 1 - SDPC Levy**

Proposed to defer a decision on the levy rate until more data is available in August. SDF will advise CAC on the levy in time for October contributions. Assurance that the levy will not be increased.

[The motion was passed unanimously](#)

Two further recommendations were made and voted on by conference:

#### **Recommendation 2 – SDPC Honoraria**

Proposed no change in the calculation method.

[The motion was passed by majority](#)

#### **Recommendation 3 - SDF Board Honoraria**

Proposed no change in the calculation method.

[The motion was passed unanimously](#)

A copy of the Jim's [presentation slides](#) and the [SDF accounts](#) can be found on the conference website.



Roy McBurnie, Chair



Jim Law, Treasurer

## **11. Motions 2022**

A total of **20 motions** were presented and debated, most of which were passed and will be considered by SDPC as to whether they are adopted as formal committee policy.

### **1. Review of NHS Dental Fees**

This conference demands that Scottish Government commission an independent review of NHS dental fees to reflect the time required to undertake treatments and related paperwork, the costs of materials and general practice expenses.

[Lanarkshire LDC](#)

[Passed unanimously](#)

### **2. Dental Lab Fees**

This conference demands that Scottish Government revise the wholly inadequate fee structure for restorative items requiring lab work to enable practices to provide viable treatments and to ensure the survival of local dental labs.

[Lanarkshire LDC and Greater Glasgow and Clyde LDC](#)

[Passed unanimously](#)

### **3. Additional SDR fee for AGP**

This conference proposes that should AGP appointments continue that there be the addition of an item in the SDR to cover the additional time it takes to carry out treatment in an AGP compared with the same treatment pre-Covid.

[Fife LDC](#)

[Passed unanimously](#)

### **4. Notice for Changes to the SDR/NHS Dental Contracts**

This conference demands that 12 weeks' notice be given of any changes to the SDR or NHS dental contracts.

[Greater Glasgow and Clyde LDC](#)

[Passed unanimously](#)



**The entire conference was excellent. Very well organised and good agenda”**

- 5. Increase Prior Approval Level**  
This conference demands that Scottish Government commits unequivocally to increase prior approval level in line with item of service fees.  
[Lanarkshire LDC](#)  
The motion wording was amended by conference  
The amended motion was passed unanimously
- 6. Fee for Patient Referrals with Complex Needs**  
This conference urges the Scottish Government to introduce a fee for patient referrals particularly patients with complex needs or neurodiversity.  
[Greater Glasgow and Clyde LDC](#)  
Passed unanimously
- 7. Sessional Basis NHS Funding Model**  
This conference believes that future NHS dental models should be funded on a sessional basis.  
[Ayrshire and Arran LDC](#)  
The motion was withdrawn by E Cootie
- 8. Change to GP234 Calculation**  
This conference demands that NHS commitment be measured on proportion of time spent not income received.  
[Greater Glasgow and Clyde LDC](#)  
Passed by majority
- 9. Abolition of 3-month Rule for Treatment Claims**  
This conference calls for the abolition of the 3-month rule for claiming treatments.  
[Greater Glasgow and Clyde LDC](#)  
Passed unanimously
- 10. Removal of GDPA Cap**  
This conference proposes the removal of the General Dental Practice Allowance Cap to provide equality for Dental Practices and to ensure viability of larger practices.  
[Ayrshire and Arran LDC](#)  
Passed unanimously
- 11. Increase to VT Trainer Allowance**  
This conference demands that Scottish Government raises the current level of VT trainer allowance to reflect the increased workload required to provide adequate mentoring support and training for recent graduates with limited clinical experience.  
[Lanarkshire LDC](#)  
Passed unanimously
- 12. Increase in CPD to 10 Sessions per Year**  
This conference demands an increase in Continuous Professional Development Allowances to 10 sessions per year.  
[Greater Glasgow and Clyde LDC](#)  
Passed by majority
- 13. NHS Recruitment and Retention Crisis**  
This conference demands that Scottish Government provides concrete support, in the form of funding and incentives, and plans for an increased student intake, to address the recruitment and retention crisis currently affecting all roles within NHS dentistry.  
[Lanarkshire LDC](#)  
Passed unanimously
- 14. GDC Assisting DCPs Returning to the Register**  
This conference demands that the General Dental Council assists DCPs when applying for restoration to the Register with a reasonable adjustment to CPD requirements.  
[Greater Glasgow and Clyde LDC](#)  
Passed unanimously
- 15. Dental Hygienist Training**  
This conference firmly believes that specific Hygienist training needs to be re-established as a matter of urgency.  
[Ayrshire and Arran LDC](#)  
Passed unanimously



Well organised conference, well done all”

## 16. GA Waiting Times

This conference demands that Scottish Government urgently allocates targeted services and resources to address the lengthy waiting times experienced by an unacceptable high number of paediatric and additional or complex patients who can only be treated under GA.

[Lanarkshire LDC](#)

[The motion wording was amended by conference](#)  
[The amended motion was passed unanimously](#)

## 17. Abolition of Police Report for Immediate Deregistration of Abusive Patients

This conference calls for the abolition of any requirement for a police report for the immediate deregistration of abusive patients.

[Greater Glasgow and Clyde LDC](#)

[Passed unanimously](#)

## 18. Four-Nation IPC Guidance

This conference demands that Scottish Government works with administrations across the four UK nations to implement unified, standard, research-based infection prevention control measures to provide consistent and practical guidelines.

[Lanarkshire LDC](#)

[Passed by majority](#)

## 19. Support for Patients Exceeding Dental Chair Weight

This conference demands a clear referral pathway to managed services for patients who weigh in excess of the maximum weight limit for standard dental chairs (135kg).

[Greater Glasgow and Clyde LDC](#)

[The motion wording was amended by conference](#)  
[The amended motion was passed unanimously](#)

## 20. Practice Expenses

This conference demands Scottish Government provide additional funding to address the significant increase in practices expenses and thus protect the viability of NHS dental practices.

[Lanarkshire LDC](#)

[Passed unanimously](#)

## 12. Chair's Closing Remarks

The Chair closed the conference by thanking all attendees, speakers, sponsors, demonstrators, and the BDA for their support. He also thanked the staff at the Stirling Court Hotel for their hospitality in hosting another successful dinner and conference. He wished all attendees a safe journey home and luck in facing the challenging world of dentistry over the next year.

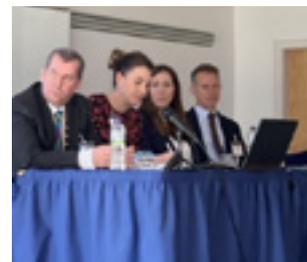
## 13. Conference Feedback

After a three-year hiatus running the conference face-to-face, the staff at the Stirling Court Hotel provided excellent support and service throughout the event. Conference was also delighted to welcome four Vocational Dental Practitioners to the conference this year and found their input very valuable.

38 feedback forms were submitted with the majority of comments very positive, indicating that the conference was a success. 95% of respondents scored the Overall Rating of the Conference as 'Good' or 'Very Good'.

## 14. Conference 2023

The Conference of Scottish LDCs will be returning to the Stirling Court Hotel on Friday 21 April 2023. Please make sure the date is in your diary and bring a colleague along with you. The success of the conference depends on the attendance and participation of delegates, so we look forward to welcoming you again next year. More information about CAC and the annual LDC Conference can be found on the [conference website](#).



Conference of Scottish Local Dental Committees 2022