

2023 LDC Conference Motions

21 motions passed at the 2023 Conference of Scottish LDCs were taken forward as SDPC policy

Below is a summary of the progress made with the motions

Green = progress made

Orange = longer-term goal

Yellow = no longer applicable

Number	Title	Motion	LDC	Progress
1	Pilot for New SDR Determination 1	This conference demands that the Scottish Government commits to piloting the measures listed in Determination 1 of the SDR, as indicated by the Cabinet Secretary in September 2022, prior to full implementation across the profession in October 2023.	Lanarkshire	Discussed with SG that a full pilot study of the new Determination I should have been carried out using test practices before it was introduced on 1 November 2023. SG said they did not have the capacity to pilot the system prior to its launch but advised there would be a transitional period for approximately 6 months once the new system was introduced where issues have and will continue to be resolved as and when they are raised.
2	Cost Increases	This conference believes that, with inflation at extraordinary levels, there should be a recurrent payment to reflect these cost increases, e.g., energy prices, materials, labour costs, laboratory costs etc.	Forth Valley	<p>Having regular discussions with SG about rising expenses and the impact it is having on dental practices. Cost of materials, laboratory fees and workforce issues are raised regularly. Evidence on dental inflation and the expenses element of pay are included in BDA submission to Doctors' and Dentists' Review Body (DDRB) and are part of the oral evidence. DDRB has consistently recommended that expenses should be negotiated as a devolved matter. BDA has called on the Scottish Government time and time again to negotiate directly on expenses.</p> <p>The Minister of Public Health and Women's Health (Jenni Minto) wrote to the Chair of SDPC (on 31 October 2023) advising that SG would have an exploratory discussion with the SDPC Executive Sub-committee about expenses. Following the discussion, the BDA / SDPC Executive / SG have agreed to undertake a series of bilateral discussions over the course of the next year with the aim of agreeing an expenses framework. SG Ministers have noted that this does not guarantee they will provide any financial commitment in relation to expenses. SDPC Executive are awaiting the date of the first meeting.</p>

3	Adequate Sedation Fees	This conference demands that the Scottish Government provides improved training opportunities and realistic sedation fees to make treatment in practice financially and practically viable for GDPs.	Lanarkshire	<p>SDPC has had discussions with SG, as the sedation practice allowance was removed as part of the amendments to the Determination I on 1 November 2023. SDPC advised SG that the removal of this allowance was a concern as it may impact negatively on the viability of dental practices to deliver sedation services and therefore, increase referrals to the Public Dental Service.</p> <p>SG replaced the Sedation Allowance (part II, Determination XIV) with new and increased fees at Section VI of the new Determination I. A sedation allowance can still be claimed, in the usual way, for 2023/24 if a practice has completed the required number of sedations between April 2023 and 31 October 2023. Any sedations carried out from 1 November 2023 do not count towards the required number of sedations. SG have also agreed that if practices have concerns around the number of sedations completed before 1 November and eligibility for this allowance, they are willing to look at these on a case-by-case basis with PSD.</p>
4	Increase to Fees and Allowances	This conference believes that all fee items and allowances should be increased in line with any general uplift in SDR fees and there should be a retrospective reconciliation of these allowances. (e.g., GDPA, CPDA, OOH sessional rate, Vocational Training allowance)	Forth Valley	<p>SDPC to have discussions with SG about allowances as part of implementation the new Determination I. SDPC / BDA have also raised this issue with SG for numerous years, as part of the DDRB process and will continue to do so. Each year we provide evidence to the DDRB who advise Government on rates of pay for Dentists. Our evidence states that any pay uplift should be applied to all fees and allowances to provide a real terms increase to the full GDS remuneration package.</p> <p>The Minister of Public Health and Women’s Health (Jenni Minto) wrote to the Chair of SDPC (on 31 October 2023) advising that SG would have an exploratory discussion with the SDPC Executive Sub-committee about expenses. Following the discussion, the BDA / SDPC Executive / SG have agreed to undertake a series of bilateral discussions over the course of the next year with the aim of agreeing an expenses framework. SG Ministers have noted that this does not guarantee they will provide any financial commitment in relation to expenses. SDPC Executive are awaiting the date of the first meeting.</p> <p>Following calls from SDPC, SG have increased the Vocational Training allowance to £1,422.42 a month (£17,069.04 per annum) for dentists with less than 4 years’ experience as a trainer within the last 10 years and £1,523.59 a month (£18,283.08 per annum) for dentists with 4 or more years’ experience as a trainer in the last 10 years. The fee payable for dentists providing emergency dental services was also increased to £154.02 per session. Details of both increases were communicated to the profession via PCA(D)(2023)3.</p> <p>GDPA is paid to qualifying practices based on 12% of accumulative gross practice earnings (up to a maximum of £22,000 per quarter). As this allowance is based on practices overall gross earnings, it is already indirectly raised each year as a result of the GDS annual pay uplift.</p> <p>SDPC negotiated a new CPD extraordinary allowance this year in relation to the specific training associated with the new Determination I.</p>

5	Increase in Continuous Professional Development Allowances	This conference demands an increase in Continuous Professional Development Allowances to 10 sessions per year.	Greater Glasgow Clyde	BDA / SDPC expect to have discussions with SG about allowances as the second stage of dental reform. SG have advised that they are not minded to increase the maximum number of CPD sessions from 6, however they would introduce additional CPD Extraordinary Allowances if required in the future. A recent example of this was the introduction of an extraordinary allowance for dentists (on sub-part A of the first part of the dental list) who completed Dental Payment Reform Training on Turas.
6	Review of NHS Commitment Payment Calculation	This conference demands that the Scottish Government review how NHS commitment is calculated.	Lanarkshire	To pursue with SG. Expect to have discussions with SG about allowances as part of the second stage of payment reform.
7	Notice for Maternity Pay Entitlement	This conference demands that dentists claiming NHS maternity pay receive written confirmation of their entitlement, along with the working calculation, including a choice exercise regarding superannuation deductions within 6 weeks of the application being submitted.	Lanarkshire and Greater Glasgow & Clyde	Having regular discussions with SG and PSD about maternity issues. PSD have improved various letter templates and their communication in relation to the maternity allowance. They are also in the process of producing a maternity FAQ document in collaboration with the BDA.
8	Reintroduce NHS Bursary Scheme	This conference proposes that the Scottish Government reintroduces the NHS bursary scheme to encourage recent graduates to remain in the NHS Dental System.	Lanarkshire	In Scotland, you can apply for the Dental Students Support Grant (DSSG) , which provides a grant of £4,000. You can apply for the DSSG if you: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are enrolled on a BDS course at Aberdeen, Dundee or Glasgow university • have a household income under £34,000 per year • are allowed to live and work in Scotland after graduation. Those in receipt of the DSSG will need to work for the NHS in Scotland for one year for each year they receive the grant. They must begin work within one year of graduation and have NHS earnings as 80 per cent of their income.
9	Modernisation of NHS Dental Technology	This conference demands provision of NHS dental technology through the introduction of a fair and reasonable reimbursement system for dentists using modern technologies such as digital scanning, 3D imaging, and digital study models.	Greater Glasgow & Clyde	The new Determination I now allows for digital scans to be claimed as part of the study model fee item.

10	Notice for Dental Reference Officer Exams	This conference calls for PSD to commit to giving 2 weeks' notice of any DRO exam.	Lanarkshire	SDPC have raised the issue with PSD who have advised that as part of stage 2 of the dental reform process, the Scottish Dental Reference Service (SDRS) will be modernised which will include the process for Dental Reference Officer (DRO) examinations.
11	Specialist Shortages	This conference is concerned by the national shortage of Oral medicine and OMFS specialists and believes that Scottish Government should do more to encourage and facilitate these career pathways.	Lothian	<p>As of November 2023, NES advised the current Oral Medicine posts were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen – one honorary consultant appointment in post • Dundee – two consultants in post • Edinburgh – one consultant in post • Glasgow – five consultants/honorary consultants in post <p>To give these figures context, there is a total of approximately 45 oral medicine consultants / honorary consultants across the rest of the UK. NES are not aware of any vacant consultant posts in Scotland and advised that some consultant oral surgeons will treat patients with less complex Oral Medicine issues. There are also currently four Specialty Trainees in post.</p> <p>NES advised that as OMFS is a medical speciality that the dental department are not involved in their training. NHS Scotland Workforce data (September 2023) confirmed the current Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery head count - 36 consultants and 1 specialty doctor. SG also plan to launch a workforce survey this year which may help to inform future work on workforce planning.</p>
12	Recruitment and Retention of Dental Nurses and Auxiliary Staff in NHS Dental Practices	This conference demands that the Scottish Government implements proposals for the recruitment and retention of dental nurses in NHS dental practices through implementing a national approach to recruitment and retention to include grants for training and education, increased access to organised courses that fulfil the requirements for re-registering with the General Dental Council (GDC), improved remuneration for dental businesses and creating a supportive and inclusive working environment that values the contribution of dental nurses.	Greater Glasgow & Clyde	Having regular discussions with SG about workforce issues. The BDA provided feedback on the SG Skills for Health and Social Care Group Workplan. The workplan is an internal plan to help SG understand the asks across all of health and social care for them to take forward with partner organisations. SG also plan to launch a workforce survey later in the year which may help to inform future work on workforce planning.

13	Workforce Planning and Training	This conference believes that the viability of dentistry in Scotland is jeopardised by a lack of consideration of the workforce planning and training, particularly in the wake of the pandemic, and especially with respect to Laboratory Technicians. We call on the Scottish Government to urgently allocate funds to address this issue.	Forth Valley	<p>Having regular discussions with SG about workforce issues. SDPC representatives consistently raised concerns about Lab Technician workforce planning and training, and lobbied SG to ask how they were addressing this ongoing issue. Advising that access to Labs providing NHS work was becoming more and more of an issue, with soaring costs also being reported.</p> <p>SG have increased the fees that dentists receive for lab-based treatments as part of the new Determination I. The BDA also provided feedback on the SG Skills for Health and Social Care Group Workplan. The workplan is an internal plan to help SG understand the asks across all of health and social care for them to take forward with partner organisations.</p> <p>SG also plan to launch a workforce survey later in the year which may help to inform future work on workforce planning. The BDA asked for dental technicians to be included in the survey but SG advised they would not be added. The CDO also supported NES with the set-up of the dental technician course (DipHE Dental Technology) which started at the University of Aberdeen in September 2023.</p>
14	Inadequate Funding for NHS Dental Laboratories Items	This Conference demands that the Scottish Government takes immediate action to address the funding crisis facing NHS dental laboratories and ensures patients receive quality dental care.	Greater Glasgow & Clyde	<p>Having regular discussions with SG about issues facing dental laboratories and the impact on GDS. This was raised consistently by SDPC representatives as part of the negotiations in relation to the Determination I. SG have since increased the fees that dentists receive for lab-based treatments as part of the new Determination I.</p> <p>SG have said that the CDO is aware and concerned about the decline in workforce of dental technicians / dental laboratories which has a detrimental impact on GDS. Fees for lab-based treatments have therefore been increased as part of the new Determination I. As part of this process, the CDO met with some local dental laboratories to explain the fee structure for dentists. The CDO also supported NES with the set-up of the dental technician course (DipHE Dental Technology) which started at the University of Aberdeen in September 2023.</p>
15	Domiciliary Care	The conference demands that Scottish Government address the crisis in domiciliary care provision through immediate training of more enhanced skills practitioners and appropriate reimbursement for the additional time and skill required to properly care for these complex patients.	Greater Glasgow & Clyde	As part of the new Determination I the fees for the Care and Treatment Allowance for Enhanced Domiciliary Care Dentists were increased . SG are having further discussions with this cohort to determine if a further change to the Determination I is required. A NES training course for Enhanced Skills in Domiciliary Care for General Dental Practitioners was due to commence in February 2024.

16	OOH Sessional Rate	This conference believes the OOH sessional rate expressed in the SDR should be increased to reflect the complexity of the interaction with patients in distress, the workload or the need to operate in unfamiliar surroundings with unfamiliar staff.	Forth Valley	Following calls from SDPC the OOH sessional rate was uplifted . The previous fee payable for dentists providing emergency dental services, with effect from 1 April 2009, was £119.55 per session (3 hours), plus a pro-rata sum appropriate to the sessional fee for each hour or part hour worked in excess of that 3-hour session This fee has been reviewed and has now increased to £154.02 per session.
17	Changes to Public Holiday Cover	This conference demands that all formal discussions about public holiday cover, both local and national, involve direct representation from GDPs.	Greater Glasgow & Clyde	A meeting has been arranged with the SG NHS 24 sponsor team to discuss cover for public holidays. We will ask SG to explore options for a formal arrangement, to ensure that NHS 24 provide a triage service for all GDS public holidays, with the agreement on these dates made at health board level, via discussions and agreement with LDC representatives. These dates should be communicated to GDS contractors on an annual basis.
18	NHS24 and cover for Public Holidays	This conference demands that NHS24 provides practices with confirmed dates for all covered public holidays for the full calendar year at the start of each year. Furthermore, that the unequal level of provision of holiday cover evident across health boards and in comparison with our GMP colleagues is addressed to provide parity.	Lanarkshire	A meeting has been arranged with the SG NHS 24 sponsor team to discuss cover for public holidays. We will ask SG to explore options for a formal arrangement, to ensure that NHS 24 provide a triage service for all GDS public holidays, with the agreement on these dates made at health board level, via discussions and agreement with LDC representatives. These dates should be communicated to GDS contractors on an annual basis.
19	Equal Treatment of Scottish Specialist Orthodontic Practices within the General Dental Services	This conference calls for the equal treatment of Scottish Specialist Orthodontic Practices within the General Dental Services and demands that these practices should be included in any future support initiatives under the umbrella of general dental services to avoid separation of specialist orthodontic provision from the general dental service, ensuring a level playing field for NHS dental contractors.	Greater Glasgow & Clyde	A meeting has been arranged between the BDA, SDPC, the Scottish Orthodontic Specialist Group (SOSG) and SG to discuss issues specific to the orthodontist sector.
20	Support for Mental Health	This conference demands targeted and specific support for mental health issues within Scottish dentistry.	Forth Valley	A compilation of mental health resources – developed jointly by BDA Scotland and the Scottish Government – highlights guidance and support resources available for dentists and dental teams as and when they may need it:
21	Dental Corporate Bodies	This conference is concerned by the growth of large corporate bodies as a proportion of practice ownership in Scotland and by their associated influence on the dental landscape. This conference would like to see an open discussion, with the Scottish Government, to assess and ultimately mitigate any negative effects arising from this corporate growth.	Lothian	This topic has been raised with SG and will be on the agenda at future joint meetings. SG have advised that they plan to consider governance issues in the coming year. Corporate bodies will be included as part of any overarching Governance discussion.