



Report of the General Dental Practice Committee

The General Dental Practice Committee (GDPC) met on Friday, 3 October 2025.

Ministerial engagement

1. I reported on my recent engagement with the Minister, Stephen Kinnock MP. I attended a roundtable with the Minister in July, followed by a private meeting in the same month.
2. The Minister has stated publicly his intention to deliver a reformed contract before the end of this Parliament. Speaking to MPs in July, Stephen Kinnock said there was a need to finalise the financial envelope for NHS dentistry following the Comprehensive Spending Review, and whilst there was no figure as yet, it was likely to be similar to the current budget. I welcomed the intention to deliver a reformed contract, but we have made very clear that this needs to be underpinned by investment to put NHS dentistry on a financially sustainable footing.
3. In our meeting, I spoke to the Minister about the need for urgent contract reform outlining our blended model of prevention-focussed care, highlighting the current access crisis and the consequences if contract reform does not happen. We also discussed the proposed interim change to the UDA contract and the changes to eligibility for skilled worker visas for some DCPs.

Interim changes to the UDA contract

4. I reported on the progress of the consultation on NHS dentistry contract: quality and payment reforms, which closed in August, and to which the BDA submitted a formal response. NHS England will take account of all responses ahead of a final decision. I advised that there is no timeline for a response, however, it is anticipated that changes will be implemented in April 2026 as planned.
5. Discussions will be taking place to identify any challenges with implementation, such as patient charges with the new care pathways, the impact of the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration (DDRB) uplifts on the payments, and the mandating of urgent care appointments. NHS England have indicated they would meet with the BDA shortly, to discuss this.

Urgent care

6. We discussed the implementation of the Government's priority of increasing urgent care provision by 700,000 appointments. Whilst ICB data on reaching indicative targets has not yet been published, we heard concerns that ICBs are struggling to deliver the appointments.
7. We discussed the recently announced national scheme for urgent care. The BDA had provided feedback to NHS England that we did not feel that this scheme was well designed to incentivise urgent care provision. We were concerned about the risk to associates with the difficulty in

determining the provision of different levels of urgent care, and to practice owners in relation to payment should targets not be reached. I advised that the BDA would provide guidance and advice for practice owners and associates on the implementation of this scheme.

BMA Negotiations and Strategy for Contract Reform

8. I welcomed Katie Bramall-Stainer, Chair of BMA General Practice Committee (GPC), to the meeting to present on GPC's negotiating journey. Katie outlined the negotiation process of this year's GP contract, noting that it was unlikely that the NHS would receive further funds from the Treasury following the outcome of the Spending Review. We discussed trade union processes, advice to members, and collective action.
9. Katie stated the commonalities between General Medical Practitioners and General Dental Practitioners, noting the lack of detail in the 10 Year Plan for both, and concerns about the ability to deliver continuity of care at scale. There were concerns about public expectations around co-location of health services, that would not be deliverable.
10. Katie mentioned the importance of including oral health in other Government strategies, such as cardiovascular disease prevention, and the lack of understanding of the impact of oral health on other health conditions. We also discussed the e-referral service, and the impact of dentists having access to patient's complete medical records.

Violence and Abuse in Dentistry

11. We discussed incidents of violence and abuse, which is an ongoing and increasing issue raised by the England Community Dental Services Committee (ECDSC). We are currently in conversation with NHS Employers regarding the development of practical guidance and are exploring other avenues for raising awareness on the work being done on this.
12. The Chair of ECDSC was keen to understand if incidences of violence and abuse is a wider issue, and we discussed examples and reporting protocols which may be in place. There was consensus that this is an issue in General Dental Practice, and the BDA agreed to take forward the points raised.

Reports from the Devolved Nations

13. Ciara Gallagher updated us on the work of the Northern Ireland Dental Practice Committee (NIDPC). Following a meeting with the Alliance Party, several questions were raised with the Minister, including asking for an update on the NHS dentistry investment proposals. An initial draft process for the NHS dentistry cost of service review had been received by the BDA, however, there is no timeline as yet. The recommendation of a 4 per cent increase to SDR fees for 2025/26 had been accepted by the Minister in July, but there continues to be a delay in receiving this uplift due to lack of approval from the Department for Finance.
14. In Scotland, there has been a 4 per cent uplift along with some changes to the Statement of Dental Remuneration (SDR), including prior approvals which will be changed to make these more clinical based.
15. Russell Gidney, Chair of the Welsh Dental Practice Committee (WGDPC), updated us on the Welsh Government's new reformed contract, following publication of the consultation responses. The WGDPC had significant concerns about the model, which will involve care packages, treatment guarantees being extended from 12 to 24 months and being met by the practice, not the NHS.

WGDPC were concerned about low-risk patients being returned to a central waiting lists, however, this has been removed. There are many details of the reformed contract that remain unclear. Russell also advised the 4 per cent contract uplift should be implemented soon.

Local Dental Committees

16. Sarah Canavan, the Chair for LDC Conference 2026 updated us on the conference which was scheduled for 5 and 6 June 2026 in Manchester. The agenda for the conference is currently being developed, with Sarah noting the intention to include sufficient time for panel discussions and question and answer sessions. .

Shiv Pabary

Chair, General Dental Practice Committee
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