



Department
of Health &
Social Care

*From Lord Markham
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State*

*39 Victoria Street
London
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01 March 2024

Dear Lords,

I am pleased to respond in writing to provide further detail and clarification to the questions raised by each of you regarding the statement I made on the government's dentistry recovery plan on 7th February.

In response to Lord Harris of Haringey's question I said that we were increasing the value of Units of Dental Activity (UDAs) to £28. To clarify, we are increasing the minimum value of UDAs to £28.

In response to Baroness Merron's question on how the golden hellos scheme will work, I said that they will be in the 12 most needy areas, and that ICBs will have the flexibility in how they attract people there. To confirm, we will launch the golden hello scheme in areas which persistently struggle to attract dentists into NHS work. We will also deploy dental vans offering appointments to patients in 12 ICB area, targeting under-served rural and coastal communities.

In response to both Baroness Merron and Lord Allan of Hallam's questions I said that we were creating 2.5 million new treatments, whereas we are creating up to 2.5 million appointments, equating to up to 1.5 million extra courses of treatment being delivered.

In response to the question from Lord Harris of Haringey, I said I would write to provide detail on the supervision that will be put in place for dentists who may be able to gain provisional registration with the General Dental Council (GDC) under the proposal included in the dental plan. The government agrees with Lord Harris that it will be vitally important that appropriate supervision is provided to protect the high standards of care patients expect.

On 16th February, the government published a consultation on draft legislation that would give GDC the power to provisionally register overseas-qualified dentists who have not yet met the GDC's requirements for full registration. Holders of provisional registration would be able to practise dentistry in the UK for a limited time under the supervision of a fully registered dentist whilst they are seeking to meet the GDC's requirements for full registration.

The draft legislation sets out that provisionally registered dentists would only be permitted to practise dentistry under supervision, and it would give the GDC the power to make rules defining the level of supervision that it considers appropriate. This draft legislation would additionally give GDC the power to set criteria defining who on the GDC dentists register may be an appropriate supervisor.

As the independent regulator for dentistry in the UK, we believe the GDC's expertise and experience leaves them best placed to make these determinations. The public consultation on the draft legislation that is currently open will allow the profession and the public to provide input on the legislative framework proposed. Given its importance, we specifically ask whether the proposed legislation provides appropriate safeguards for patient safety as part of the consultation. We will analyse and consider the responses we receive to the consultation, on this issue and across all the provisions in the legislation.

Thank you for your questions and contributions on this important issue and I hope the above responses and clarifications prove useful.

I am copying this letter to all those who contributed and the editor of Hansard. A copy will also be deposited in the House library.

With my very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of stylized, flowing letters that appear to be 'M' and 'A'.

LORD MARKHAM CBE