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-----Original Message-----

**From:** TrevForge@aol.com [mailto:TrevForge@aol.com]  
**Sent:** 22 March 2004 21:40  
**To:** Ray.Watkins@scotland.gsi.gov.uk; eric.gray@scotland.gsi.gov.uk; f.angus@bda.org  
**Subject:** Modernising NHS Dental Services in Scotland - Consultation

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Further comments re. Dundee Meeting - 19th March 2004

In order to encourage a commitment to NHS Dentistry amongst other items we discussed reimbursement of staffing costs in our discussion group:

I would like to expand a bit on this:  
 Consideration could be given to include Dental Nurses, Receptionists, Managers, and Therapists. A percentage reimbursement of the cost of employing staff - with an abatement similar to that for Business Rates reimbursement - based on BDA salaries. The salary could also be superannuable - similar to G.M.P. staff.  
 ? also include hygienists if they are carrying out NHS duties.

Reimbursement could also be considered for:  
 Water rates - now becoming excessive  
 Other running costs - heating, lighting, business insurance.

If these costs were met centrally - i.e. the elements that are not treatment sensitive - the fee per item would directly reflect the dentist's time and the materials costs only - and would not have to increase substantially. The overheads element for the fees would become transparent to the patient.

The alternative to this is keep the present calculations and increase the fee by 100 - 200% to cover the increasing costs mentioned above.

Continuing care and capitation fees of some sort should probably continue - so that statistics are available regarding how many patients are registered. Registration should ideally be rolled on from the last visit - rather than from the examination visit.

An enhanced fee scale for those with an extra qualification should not be considered.  
 Extra qualifications involve taking time out of NHS dentistry while the rest of the profession has to cover this. Running a busy practice, helping bring up a family, and studying for an additional degree usually is a recipe for stress burn-out, divorce or failure. The only solution would be central funding to cover locum or child minding!

Lastly

The BDA states that many of the VT's disappear from NHS Dentistry.

They are salaried generously, some receive Golden Hellos - consideration should be given to committing them to the NHS for a set period of time. After all they have received their postgraduate training in a NHS setting. Many seem to be brainwashed into 100% Private.

Apologies for rambling

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