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# LEITH WALK DENTAL PRACTICE

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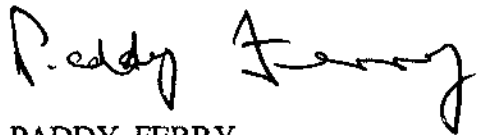
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Dear Mr. Gray,

## MODERNISING NHS DENTAL SERVICES IN SCOTLAND

1. My main concern is that there should be no "big bang" solution. This was promised to our colleagues in England and Wales. However it now seems to have been an empty promise which has led to great uncertainty and anxiety among practitioners down south as to what the future of NHS dentistry holds.
2. I feel that the position of those of us committed to NHS dentistry has improved substantially since 1997. There have been 3 main measures introduced which I have found to be very supportive in my efforts to continue to provide treatment under the NHS for my patients:
  - Commitment payments
  - Annual dental practice improvement grants
  - The new general dental service practice allowance.
3. I would not be in favour of abandoning the item of service method of remuneration. However it is, I think, accepted by virtually everyone involved in the provision of NHS dentistry that some of the item of service fees which we are paid are simply inadequate to sufficiently reimburse us for the treatment provided. Examples would be metal dentures and, even, simple extractions. Some improvement should be considered in these fees.

Yours sincerely,



PADDY FERRY.