

# Primary Care Dentistry in Scotland

Year ending 31 March 2015

Publication Date – 01 November 2016

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## About this release

This release from the Information Services Division, published on behalf of the Scottish Dental Practice Board (SDPB), provides an annual update on how primary care dental services are managed and provided in Scotland, how well these services are operating, and financial payments made to dentists.

## Main points

- In 2014/15, the total cost of General Dental Services and Public Dental Services in Scotland increased by 1.5% to £394.9m.
- Total payments made to dentists increased by 1.9% to £339.4m.
- The total value of allowance payments made to dentists increased by 3.1% to £56.7m.
- Costs of dental registration fees for both children and adults increased. This is due to fee increases and to higher numbers of patients registered.
- Treatment (item of service) fees decreased by 1.5% to £124.6m due to fewer restorative treatments and extractions being performed.
- In 2014/15, 873 dentists worked in the most deprived areas in Scotland.

## Background

SDPB work in partnership with Scottish Government, NHS National Services Scotland, NHS Boards, NHS Education for Scotland and other organisations to develop the provision of General Dental Services in Scotland. This includes authorising payment of fees to dentists, carrying out research into the provision of dental services, and making recommendations to Scottish Government in respect of dental services. SDPB provide Scottish Ministers with this annual report to summarise this activity.

The NHS General Dental Service (GDS) provides a full range of NHS treatments to patients and is mostly provided by high-street 'independent' dentists. Prior to 2014, there were also a number of 'salaried' dentists who were directly employed by NHS Boards and provided GDS. There was also the Community Dental Service (CDS), which provided a 'safety net' dental service for people who were unable to obtain care through GDS. From 01 January 2014 the salaried dental service merged with the CDS to become the Public Dental Service (PDS). The main role of PDS dentists is to provide GDS for people who cannot access care from an independent dentist.

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## Find out more

The Information Services Division publishes a wide range of dental statistics. You can find all our dental information at the [ISD Dental Website](#).

Further information can be found in the [Primary Care in Dentistry Report](#) and the [Scottish Dental Practice Board website](#).

The next update of this publication will be in Autumn 2017.

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## ISD and Official Statistics

Information Services Division (ISD) is the principal and authoritative source of statistics on health and care services in Scotland. ISD is designated by legislation as a producer of 'Official Statistics'. Our official statistics publications are produced to a high professional standard and comply with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. [Find out more about our statistics](#).