Primary Care Dentistry in Scotland
Annual Report 2017/18
A National Statistics publication for Scotland

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About this release

This release by the Information Services Division (ISD), 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, and how well these services are operating.

Main Points

- The total cost of the provision of General Dental Services (GDS) and Public Dental Services (PDS) increased to just over £409 million in 2017/18, this is a £4.3 million increase (1.1%) when compared to 2016/17. This represents a £4.8m increase in payments made to GDS contractors.

- £359.7 million was paid to dentists, compared to £354.9 million in the previous year.
- The total value of allowance payments increased by £0.5m (0.9%) compared to 2016/17.
Background
The SDPB works 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 work includes authorising the payment of fees to dentists, carrying out research and analysis into the provision of dental services and making recommendations to Scottish Government in respect of dental services. The SDPB provide Scottish Ministers with this annual report to summarise this activity.

The NHS General Dental Service provides a range of treatments to patients and is mostly provisioned by independent ‘high-street’ dentists. The Public Dental Service is a merger of the salaried and community dental services and was formed on 1 January 2014. The main role of PDS is to provide GDS for those patients with special care needs.

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Further Information
Find out more in the full report which is available to download from our web page.

Information Services Division publishes a wide range of dental statistics. You can find all our dental information at the ISD dental website.

Current and historical information on GDS fees and costs is available on the General Dental Service section of our website.

This is the final report before the Scottish Government intends to significantly amend the role and responsibility of the Scottish Dental Practice Board. There is therefore currently no planned release date for a future report in this format.

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. Further information about our statistics.