Consultation on the frequency of publishing dental registration and participation information for NHSScotland – ISD Response

The Information Services Division (ISD) of NHS National Services Scotland is committed to producing information that best meets the needs of our customers. We recently ran a public consultation to review the frequency of our ‘Dental Statistics – NHS Registration and Participation’ publication and we would now like to report the results.

Consultation
ISD currently publish ‘Dental Statistics – NHS Registration and Participation’ on a six-monthly basis, in January and June. Recent publications have shown minimal changes to figures at each release. We believe that reporting these minimal changes is not contributing to our understanding of dental registration and participation activity in Scotland and wish to make this an annual publication.

The consultation asked for responses to the question “Do you support the move from publishing on a six-monthly basis to an annual basis?”

Responses
Nine responses were received. Two thirds (six) responses supported publishing annually.

Of the responses that did not support publishing on an annual basis, the following reasons were given:

- preference for more frequent data for business planning;
- preference for different data, including specific information on numbers and rates of patients attending dental practices;
- concern that annual reporting will mean a time-lag in data being published.

Results
Based on this feedback, ISD will move to publishing ‘Dental Statistics – NHS Registration and Participation’ on an annual basis. The first annual-only publication will be released in January 2017.

To help those that have a requirement for more frequent information or information that is not currently held in the publication, ISD provides an information request service. Individuals can submit an enquiry to the dental team by email at nss.isd-dental-info@nhs.net.

Further information
If you have any questions or for further information please email nss.isd-dental-info@nhs.net or speak to Samantha Whipp, Principal Information Analyst on 0131 275 6042.