



Report of the General Dental Practice Committee

The General Dental Practice Committee (GDPC) met on Friday, 6 February 2026.

Interim UDA Contract Changes

1. I updated the Committee regarding the upcoming changes to the GDS Contract. We explained to the Committee the detail of the contract available at present, including the new 8.2% unscheduled care threshold set to be introduced. Our analysis suggested that practices were typically delivering 6-12% of their contract value as unscheduled care.
2. We also discussed the new care packages/pathways and how these would be implemented in practice. There was concern about the process for submitting claims and complex administrative work being passed down to practices. On this basis, future discussions with NHS England will seek urgent clarity regarding how this would function.

Dental Contract Reform

3. I updated the Committee on the GDPC's approach to fundamental contract reform in more detail. I noted the importance of the present moment, with the current Government signalling the intention to move away from the UDA system by the end of this current Parliament. However, we noted again that the current financial envelope is likely to remain unchanged. I sought to clarify the BDA's approach to reform, noting we will enter as pragmatic negotiators with the aim of presenting a credible and realistic alternative to the current post-2006 system, with the goal of a system that is sustainable for dentists, practices and NHS Dentistry. Since the last meeting, the GDPC negotiating team had continued to meet with DHSC to discuss what a reformed contract could look like.
4. I noted the feedback from the most recent LDC Officials Day showed a limited support for care packages/pathways; with many attendees feeling they presented an overly complex solution.
5. The Committee was split into seven separate groups to discuss a variety of issues related to contract reform, regarding Care Packages/Pathways, Fee Per Item, and which treatments should fall under activity or capitation. There was a broad consensus on many issues, including continued scepticism about the concept of care packages, a preference for FPI over care packages, albeit with the assumption the fee would be fair to dentists and acknowledging that Fee Per Item has the potential to discourage long-term prevention. The GDPC retained the view that capitation was an important element of creating a prevention-focused contract.

Private Practice

6. I updated the Committee regarding the potential prospect of a review into private dentistry by the Competition and Markets Authority. I noted the request for this investigation by the Chancellor has been led by a sense of a lack of transparency within pricing in Private Dentistry. However, the pricings of services are at pace with inflation and are heavily tied into factors of increased laboratory costs and NI increases.
7. The Committee acknowledged the potential impact any investigation may have upon the reputation of Private Dentistry, whilst also raising to attention that it may provide an opportunity to demonstrate transparency, patient choice and the quality of services. Further information on a potential investigation will be discussed at the upcoming meeting of the Private Practice Sub-Committee.

Education, training and workforce

8. I introduced the BDA's submission to the DHSC's workforce plan consultation. The document outlines longstanding issues within NHS Dentistry, broken down into three sections giving general comments of what is not currently working within NHS dentistry, the existing flaws in the government's workforce modelling, and activity that suggests a need for further investigation into existing issues within the sector.

British Dental Guild

9. Howard Jones, BDG Treasurer, reminded the Committee of the importance of the British Dental Guild in supporting the work of the GDPC. He noted the Guild's importance in reimbursing loss of income for those involved in the GDPC's work through meetings with NHS England and the DHSC, and participation in its Sub-Committees. The Committee was reminded to report back to their LDCs and seek a donation to the Guild of roughly £25-£30 per dentist in each LDC. He concluded by congratulating Mark Haigh for his new position as Chair of the Guild and thanking Keith Percival for his 30 years of service.

Reports of the other BDA Committees

10. Eddie Crouch informed that Wimpole Street was due to be sold in March. He also announced that the recent PEC elections had seen four new members elected, alongside noting an upcoming review into the PEC's governance, the first of its kind since its creation in 2012.

Shiv Pabary

Chair, General Dental Practice Committee
February 2026