



Report of the General Dental Practice Committee

The General Dental Practice Committee (GDPC) met on Friday, 7 February 2025.

Elections

1. The elections to the various positions within the General Dental Practice Committee (GDPC) were held. I was elected as Chair of the GDPC, and Joe Hendron and Vijay Sudra were elected as Vice-Chairs. The Vice-Chairs and I, along with Mark Green, Charlie Daniels, Don McGrath and Agi Tarnowski were elected to the GDPC Executive Sub-Committee. Elections were also held for the Associates and Private Practice Sub-Committees, in addition to the cross-representative positions for the various BDA committees.
2. As the newly elected Chair of the GDPC, I thanked the Committee for putting their trust in me – it is a huge honour – and I congratulated everyone elected and those who stood. I reaffirmed my intention to continue to tackle the challenges and barriers faced in NHS Dentistry. My personal vision for the GDPC was that of collaboration, courage and clarity.

Introductions

3. As this was the first meeting since elections were held at the end of the last year, we spent some time on induction for new and returning members. Eddie Crouch, Chair of the Principal Executive Committee, welcomed us to the first GDPC meeting of the triennium. He congratulated members on being elected to the Committee. He added that each of us, as a member of the GDPC, would have the opportunity to influence policy, advocate for our colleagues, and contribute to the strategic direction of dentistry in the UK. He emphasised that, as the voice of GDPs, we were tasked with engaging with policymakers, negotiating contracts, and speaking out on issues of both NHS and private care. Martin Woodrow, Chief Executive, introduced the BDA structure, the Principal Executive Committee, explained how the GDPC integrated into the wider structure, and the Sub-Committees. He stated that the GDPC was tasked to represent the interests and act on behalf of dentists working in general practice. He also highlighted the roles and expectations of members.

Current Policy Issues

4. Nuzha Dissi, Policy Officer, outlined the GDPC's achievements during the previous triennium and future priorities. She highlighted the key successes including the introduction of a minimum UDA value and higher UDA allocations for complex treatments. She emphasised that contract reform was the top priority, and the BDA team was actively pushing for it. Nuzha Dissi provided an overview of the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and NHS England and introduced key individuals within these organisations with whom the GDPC and BDA team regularly engaged.

5. Tom King, Head of Policy and Research, provided a brief overview of the contract reform journey. He reiterated the BDA's position which was in favour of a prevention-based, blended contract, incorporating a significant capitation component, activity for very high needs, and sessional payments for urgent care. He stated that while the Government remained committed to reform, the progress had been slow since the general election.

Contract and Pay Uplifts

6. Tom King explained that the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration (DDRB) provided independent recommendations on dentists' NHS pay, considering evidence from the BDA, other trade unions, NHS England, and DHSC. He also described the formula used to calculate the contract uplift which factored in the DDRB's recommendation on dentists' pay, along with uplifts for staff pay, material and lab costs, and other expenses determined by the DHSC.
7. Tom King added that the contract uplift was 4.64 per cent in England and implementation was expected in March 2025. In Wales, the uplift was 6 per cent with caveats on quality improvement. Scotland and Northern Ireland received uplifts valued at 6 per cent and 4.85 per cent respectively. Across the UK, the process has been entirely unacceptably delayed, and all four governments had deviated from the DDRB recommendations in one way or another.

Local Dental Committees

8. Charlie Daniels, the Chair for [LDC Conference 2025](#), updated us on the conference which was scheduled for 5 and 6 June 2025 in Gateshead-Newcastle. I encouraged members to attend their LDC meetings and support the vital transfer of information between LDCs and the GDPC.

Reports from the Devolved Nations

9. We welcomed Ciara Gallagher back to the Committee as the re-elected Chair of the Northern Ireland Dental Practice Committee (NIDPC). Selective fee enhancements on certain items in the SDR which were due to run for a year were coming to an end in 8 weeks. Meetings were scheduled to discuss options for use of the predicted underspend during the next financial year. There was further acknowledgment of the inevitable decline of the service in the absence of reform. The Minister approved a GDS cost of service review in 2025/26 which the BDA had requested over eight years ago. He had also committed to a substantive programme of work on contract reform by 2027.
10. Russell Gidney, Chair of the Welsh GDPC, stated that they were still working on a yearly contract variation and that yet another non negotiated contract would be imposed for 2025/26.

British Dental Guild (BDG)

11. Howard Jones, BDG Treasurer, outlined the role of the BDG and the process of claiming sessional payments. He explained that the BDG reimbursed GPDC members for loss of earnings, funded activities of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Sub-Committee members, and others acting on the Chair's instructions. He encouraged us to seek donations from their LDC's to [support the Guild](#).

BDA Headquarters

12. Eddie Crouch informed us about the decision to vacate the Wimpole Street building. While the initial plan was to downsize within the building, the landlords did not approve the proposal. After

considering various options, the decision was made to hand back the lease. He emphasised the importance of preserving the history of the BDA and dentistry.

Shiv Pabary

Chair, General Dental Practice Committee
February 2025