



Health and Social Care Committee

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

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From Rt Hon. Jeremy Hunt MP

Dr Sara Hurley
Chief Dental Officer England

7 April 2020

Dear Dr Hurley

I am writing to you in relation to [recent guidance](#) sent to practitioners providing NHS dentistry in England, on 25th March.

We have been contacted by dentists who are concerned about the financial implications of such guidance on their practices.

Specifically, there is concern about the following phrase, under Section B2 'Contract value and reconciliation':

Practices benefiting from continued NHS funding will not be eligible to seek any wider government assistance to small businesses which could be duplicative.

As you are, I am sure, aware, many dentists have mixed practices in which they provide some NHS work and some private work; in fact, the majority of practices in England are in this category. Both private and NHS work has, in the main, been halted as a result of the coronavirus epidemic.

I am writing to seek clarification on the eligibility of such mixed practices to seek wider government assistance on the private element of their practice, whilst also receiving the assistance as documented in your guidance which would cover the NHS element. As I am sure you will agree, it would appear unfair that such practices would be prevented from receiving support on what is a private enterprise, simply because they are providing NHS work from the same premises.

This is a very pressing and immediate matter for many dentists, and I would be very grateful if you would attend to this with some urgency.

Yours sincerely,

Jeremy Hunt MP
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee

cc. Matt Neligan, Director of Primary Care and System Transformation

Primary Care and System Transformation
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30 April 2020

Rt Hon. Jeremy Hunt MP

By email: hsccom@parliament.uk

Dear Mr Hunt

Thank you for your letter dated 7 April 2020, and sincere apologies for the delay in responding to you. Sara Hurley has asked that I respond on our joint behalf.

Following the publication of our [letter dated 25 March 2020](#), we received several queries from dental contractors whose practice income is split between NHS and private revenue raising the same issue that you have outlined. We can confirm that the application of the principles outlined in our letter for practices benefitting from continued NHS funding are intended to apply to NHS income only. Contract holders wishing to claim against additional Government support schemes should ensure that this is in relation to the proportion of private revenue only.

We clarified this point through a further [letter that we published on 15 April](#) and are providing regular updates to guidance that we release through our website here: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/primary-care/dental-practice/>.

Thank you for raising your concerns and please be assured that our teams are working hard with the representatives of the sector to resolve this and other issues as a key part of our national effort at this time.

Yours sincerely



Matt Neligan
Director of Primary Care and System Transformation

Cc Sara Hurley