

Dear Mr Gove

Thank you for your email of 20th July 2022 to Amanda Pritchard, Chief Executive of NHS England regarding access to NHS dentistry in your constituency of Surrey Heath, asking how much of the national £50m access funding was allocated to the area in 2021-22 and work taking place with local providers to improve access. These e-mails have been forwarded to provide a response on behalf of the NHS.

In December 2020 funding was offered to all practices across the South East region to increase access by providing sessions outside of their normal contracted hours, for example in the evening or at weekends. These sessions were for patients who did not have a regular dentist and had an urgent dental need or had only able to receive temporary urgent care. The local South East scheme was paused when an additional £50 million funding became available to roll out a similar scheme across the country during February and March 2022. All practices in the South-East were offered the opportunity to take part in the scheme with 1 doing so from the Surrey Heath area:

- JS Kaila of the Dental Practice, 47 Middlegordon Road, Camberley, GU15 2HT

The sum paid to the practice for that period was £13,734.

The national scheme has now finished and local funding has again been offered to practices, although the local scheme has now been expanded to also include Looked After Children and patients with an urgent clinical need such as those that need to be dentally fit prior to undergoing cancer treatment or cardiac surgery.

Whilst there are no practices from the Surrey Heath area involved; there are 2 practices in the Frimley Integrated Care Board (ICB) and 3 in nearby towns in Surrey that currently have the staffing levels to safely undertake additional sessions, specifically for patients that would be new to the practice. The offer of funding additional sessions remains open so that should other practices subsequently determine they have the staffing levels to safely deliver additional NHS sessions, these will be established. Should any patient need urgent dental care, or they have been able to access temporary urgent care and still require further treatment to stabilise their oral health, be a Looked After Child or need dental treatment before undergoing certain medical or surgical procedures, they will be able to contact one of the following practices to obtain treatment:

- Moonlight Dental Surgery, Slough, Berkshire, tel: 01753 526301
- SC Dental Studio, Slough, Berkshire, tel: 01753 550888
- Sunbury Dental Practice, Sunbury-on-Thames, Surrey, TW16 6QL, tel: 01932 783208
- Parkside Dental Surgery, Woking, Surrey, GU21 3LQ, tel: 01483 766355
- Cromwell Dental Practice, Walton On Thames, Surrey KT12 3NL, tel: 01932 269199

Approval has recently been achieved to extend these access sessions to 31st March 2023 and a further review of access is under way.

There has also been a recent announcement of planned changes to the NHS dental contract with planned implementation from the autumn. These changes include proposals designed to improve access.



Frimley

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fiona Edwards'.

Fiona Edwards
Chief Executive
NHS Frimley