

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: SF/LG/3135/12

David Melding AM
Committee Chair
The Constitutional and Legislative
Affairs Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

3

October 2012

Dear David,

CLA169 – The National Health Service (Dental Charges) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2012

Thank you for your letter dated 26 September about the Explanatory Memorandum with regard to the above Statutory Instrument. I am sorry the Explanatory Memorandum was not as clear as it might have been.

Dental patient charges represent an important contribution to the overall cost of dental services. The amount raised will be dependent upon the level and type of primary care dental services provided by LHBs, the proportion for fee paying patients who access NHS dental services and the complexity of the treatment they receive.

There is a Programme for Government commitment to ensure that dental charges remain affordable and in doing so help to tackle oral health inequalities.

Patient charges are kept under annual review with consideration given to the provision of services, affordability and a number of factors including the Consumer Price Index, the Rate of Inflation and the total level of charge income likely to be raised. Account is also taken of the impact on charge payers, and also the views of Local Health Boards and the British Dental Association.

The decision to increase the Band 1 dental charge from £12.00 to £12.40 and the Band 2 charge from £39.00 to £40.20 from 1 September was made after considering and balancing the above factors. It is not considered practicable to undergo this process each year by way of public consultation.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
Correspondence.lesley.Griffiths@wales.gsi.gov.uk
Printed on 100% recycled paper

While I am pleased the Committee recognises there is no intention to mislead the National Assembly for Wales in this case, I accept the detail of the actual increase, including the means by which they were calculated should have featured more clearly in the EM. I would like to thank the Committee for bringing this matter to my attention.

Regards
Lesley

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services