Dentists look set to get a 0.21 per cent increase in earnings following a recommendation of the Review Body on Doctors’ and Dentists’ Pay. (News and opinions)

Professor Jimmy Steele, chair of the Independent Review Team, has made the case for NHS dentists to be motivated to either join or support our current NHS practice. (News in brief)

Dental directory A new UK dentist directory, eDentics.co.uk, has been launched as a tool for both dentists and patients. With over 8,000 dentists, orthodontists, cosmetic dentists, NHS dentists, many with UK dentist reviews and ratings by genuine patients, eDentics aims to be the largest and most comprehensive UK dentist directory to provide patients free access to listings and many other additional features. (Practice management)

Dentistry of the highest quality.

Prevention and ensuring NHS dentistry by properly supporting our current NHS practice is necessary in the current economic climate. Clearly, economic prudence is essential for everyone.

However he added: ‘But it’s also important to remember that high street dentists are running businesses that provide vital healthcare to millions of people.

Those businesses must be properly funded so that they can invest in their premises and equipment to deliver the highest quality care to their patients.’

The problems many patients have faced accessing NHS dentistry in recent years have been well documented.

Mr Milne claimed that the ‘solution to those problems is to build confidence in the future of NHS dentistry by properly supporting our current NHS practitioners, and sending a positive signal to newly qualified dentists about the future of NHS dentistry.

He said: ‘This settlement will do neither of those things.’

‘Derisory’ pay rise to hit the profession

‘The government has broken its promise to provide a comprehensive dental service to the nation’

Derek Watson

The British Dental Association (BDA) echoed the DPA’s concerns.

The 0.21 per cent rise is based on a formula that, taking estimated decreased expenses into account, suggests GDPs will actually see a 1.5 per cent increase in net incomes.

However John Milne, chair of the BDA’s General Dental Practice Committee (GDPC), said: ‘Sadly, the basis of the formula which suggests that the increase amount may to 1.5 per cent in real terms does not take account of the effect of the devaluation of sterling and its effect on the prices of equipment and materials that are largely manufactured overseas.

These expenses, and dentists’ ability to access the finance necessary to meet them, are both adversely affected by the recession.

He added: ‘We appreciate that a measure of financial restraint is necessary in the current financial climate. Clearly, economic prudence is essential for every dentist.’

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