26th March 2020

I hope you are keeping safe in these extraordinarily difficult times. Tonight (26th March) at 8pm I could hear the claps of appreciation for our NHS workers echoing throughout my street. I am exceptionally proud to be a part of the NHS but alas I knew those claps were not for me. I am an NHS General Dental Practitioner and so far during this crisis we have been badly let down by our CDO (Chief Dental Officer) and the Scottish government. NHS Dentistry is an integral and important part of the NHS and yet we seem to have been forgotten about, regarded as merely an afterthought. A recent article in the New York Times highlighting the risk to health care workers during this crisis had dentists occupying the not this time coveted number one position. I would like to share with you a letter that was sent to the dental director of Forth Valley Health Board, highlighting the concerns of the Area and Local Dental Committees of Forth Valley and NHS general dental practitioners in Forth Valley. These are concerns shared by dentists throughout Scotland so our list of signatories is now nationwide.

“We find ourselves in unprecedented times and we appreciate the duress faced by you, your senior management team and that of the Public Dental Service at this time. As a group we would like to express our thanks for the hard work so far helping practitioners to look after our patients. As a group though, we are concerned that at the end of this crisis, there will not be a functioning NHS GDS service left in Forth Valley and this will very much be to the detriment of our patients. Our serious concerns regard the processes available for the current care of our patients and the financial viability of our practices based on the current measures made available by the CDO and the Scottish Government.

Under the direction of your team and the CDO, from the 23rd of March, general dental practices are no longer able to provide face to face patient care. Our patients are suffering as they are only able to receive advice, prescriptions or referral to PDS. Inevitably, the PDS will struggle to cope with the influx of patients requiring emergency care. It is difficult to articulate how frustrating it is to speak to a patient in pain over the phone, knowing that we could resolve their pain in minutes if only we could see them. As GDPs we are very fortunate that we don’t always see patients when they are in pain. We have professional relationships with them that, in many cases, we have developed over many years. We are an important and vital part of the community. It is essential there is a fully functioning dental service at the end of this crisis or we risk the dental health of the population being pushed back a generation. The GDS is the only practical option to provide this service. In the meantime, we wish to support the PDS in any way we can. We understand there is currently an issue with PPE and we will be happy to bolster the service when this is resolved.

The economic impact of this crisis will continue for years. Overnight, practices have seen their incomes decimated. As the situation currently stands, every other health care sector, apart from dentistry, has received a fair funding package. Every other sector has financial stability for their staff and themselves. We do not. This is placing practice owners, PAYE staff, associates, hygienists and therapists under even more mental strain. The deal from the CDO as it stands, is inequitable. Practices who have a higher percentage of paying patients are at a significant disadvantage compared to practices where the patients are exempt from charges. This creates a situation where two equally NHS committed practices with the exact same number of patients can receive different levels of income from this package based solely on their patients’ ability to pay.

Practice owners feel the added pressure to ensure their staff are looked after. The availability of the government furlough scheme would help provide stability for our staff. It is vitally important that Scottish dental practices are not financially penalised if they use this scheme. For practices to remain financially viable, they will have to rely on whatever provision is made by the CDO and the furlough scheme. The CDO has already encouraged us to explore all other funding options and this must include using the furlough scheme; not just additional borrowing. Most NHS practices have an element of private income because as you are aware, not all aspects of dental care are available on the NHS. This income stream is now non-existent. There are still fixed costs to be met regardless of income. It is not a viable model for practices to have to borrow money to keep their practice afloat. Many practice owners are already servicing high levels of debt as a result of buying into or setting up practices. Many have already used their homes to secure their business loans. It is also worth noting that under our GDS terms of service, a person who has been declared bankrupt cannot hold an NHS GDS list number.

No practitioners expect to benefit from this situation, however, we must be able to utilise all the facilities available to other sectors to remain financially viable. This will allow us to reopen our doors to the thousands of patients who will need our help when we are finally able to do so. If practitioners are bankrupt as a result of this crisis, then ultimately it will be patients who lose out. We are all in this together, unfortunately as things currently stand, GDPs feel forgotten in the overall healthcare system.

We must ensure financial viability for practices to allow continuity of care. We ask you to ensure we have absolute clarity from the Scottish Government about the level of funding available, which schemes we can use and when these funds will be made available. With financial stability in place, we have no doubt you will have the support of every practitioner in Forth Valley and we are more than willing to play our part to help. It would be inherently unfair to expect GDPs on vastly reduced salaries to work alongside our PDS colleagues still receiving full pay. There are also implications for furloughed staff if they are to be redeployed. Who will then be responsible for paying them?

We would very much appreciate it if you could share our concerns with the relevant executives and government departments.”

Thank you very much for taking the time to read this letter. The dental community is vital to the NHS and we are determined to help in the national effort at this time of crisis

Yours Sincerely

Gillian M Lennox

For and on behalf of LDC/ADC Forth Valley (list number)

Gillian M Lennox 34998 Fiona Macphail 59270 Gordon Morson 16978

Forth Valley Practitioners and Practitoners Scotland wide

Donald B McNicol 35499 Lisa Latewood 34574

Lesley Donaldson 51230 Soo Sun Chong 57317

Alana Kidd 69219 Gregor Preston 36526

James Duncan 35226 Bryony Coyle 89921

Dayna Campbell 20792 Suzanne Maxwell 58205

David Martin 34061 Fiona Girasoli 97828

Nicola McMillan 86675 Donna Muir 34346

Lynsey Cranston 16117 Malcolm Burgess 26570

Louise Robertson 13138 Gilzian Bryce 66830

Robert Johnston 34184 Claire Harrison 12256

Paige Lipski 10414 Jane Lang 30857

Liam Boyle 35670 James Barrack 75530

Daniel Boyle 10203 Aine McDonnell 10459

Victoria Golding 95682 Alban Higgins 25686

Amelia Knight 83836 Heather Bourquin 12255

Alexander Arrol 12253 Rachael Darcy 53539

Gabrielle Griffen 89791 Atif Bashir 54956

Alan Marshall 67700 Stuart Knight 12980

Sinead McKenna 12980 Shauna Boland 12823

Claire Harrison 12256 Katie Ireland 12090

Laura Gourlay 12354 Rebecca Little 20859

Amanda Roberts 30431 Emma Johnstone 10579

Kieran Hay 40115 Norman Allan 36194

Morag MacLarty 11941 Craig Murdoch 83642

Colin Gordon 257925 John Denham 29830

Kirsten Hepburn 13518 Frazer Horn 97322

Alasdair Walker 72732 Craig Yeamen 10396

Crawford MacLean 75498 Angela MacLean 24642

Jean Martin 35871 Thomas Slack 12909

Allan Imrie 36535 Louise Flavell 12168

Jennifer Denham 21511 Kirsten Thomson 12505

Gordon Campbell 37796 Clare Campbell 12339

Michael Young 10423 Amy Lee 10415

Mark Sorbie 97141. Rebecca Morris 12300

James Livingstone 73634 Colin Devlin 12345

Margaret Colvin retired Aniqah Rashid 85262

Eimear Short 12254 Graham McAughtrie 11395

Richard Thurlow-Begg 91512. Denise Laird 34485

Donna Ferrie 30761 Paul Curry

David Kennedy 11137 Shelia Macintyre 22426

Philip Larmour 52820 Catherine Jones 24671

Ian Donaldson 22129 Gareth Forde 83206

Greig Stevenson 82001 Alina Sheikh 32307

Neil Shepherd 74364 Eildh McAllistair 12787

Stuart Steven 82022 Fraser Callaghan 20956

Judith Doherty 45843 Will Doherty 45706

David McColl 62169 A Coia 19413

John Macleod 70084 Martyn Traynor 78830

Paul Mitchell 15184 Adam Gilmartin 27075

Shian Jaf 91936 Paul McAllister 81034

Josephine Weir 62148 Helen MacNeil 68818

Ayesha Ghaffar 43223 Moira Murray 54335

Douglas Thain 36738 Ruby Ahuja 58815

Katria Cumrie 62568 Karen McCulloch 34706

Emma Sharkey 97396 Helena Blessing 76885

Abhishek Vijayakumar 54027 Girash Bharadwaj 91047

Ahmed Shaikh 98729 Allan Rennie 89870

Ross Michie 59888 Tejaswini Abhishek 11310

Katherine Scott 10454 Peter Goudie 51783

Eilidh O’Neil 12632 Bebhinn O’Neil 12641

Katie McKay 80525 Angela Rowlands 88095

Leanne Branton 49104 John Lawson 80567

Charlie Evans 44002 Morven Gordon Duff 70916

Mojgan Soltain 62207 Euan Smith 36533

Aisling Hanly Savitha Raman 73222

Colin Halliday 76766 Kenneth Barr 28800

Peter Ireland 60935 Eilidh Craig 50193

Angela Watson 12604 Fiona Lee 33129

Moyra Finnie 28833 Mark Church 27126

Martin Allan 11725 Paul Allan 11717

Jennifer Tong 12710 Ravipal Bains 13307

Emma Roger 72965 Kevin Clark 42321

Jane O’Toole 59890 Caroline Hyland 81700

Adam Gray 73581 Valarie Stevenson 37915

Frederico Do Rigo 65221 Julie Cleland 10383

Michael Sockalingham 48140 John Hyland 26679

Shelly Percival 28223 Sandip Dhar 76868

Melanie Gray 52593 Scott Edwards 46286

Raymond Murphy 43131 Scott McLean 10492

Sean Tower 69178 Alison Hughes 95507

Brian McMillan 66583 Christopher Henderson 28940

Sandra Hardy 28967 Deborah Henderson 28995

Lorna Cleland 67961 Terri Hamilton 99772

Linsey Forrester 227209 Blair MacDonald 270481

James McManus 65618 Colin Freer 46221

Gareth McMorrow 72047 Richard Alexander 18870

Alice Rutherford 48693 Lorraine Arnot 75564

Paul MacDonald 43155 Alan Macleod 81643

Marinana Sacramento 24267 Conal Gormley 11343

Lesley Struthers 11544 Gary Tyler 43429

Colin Kane 85547 Anna Jackson 11543

Neil Rutherford 42137 David Logan 27189

Gillian Logan 16361 Ian Cooper 71251

Derek Hughes 60944 Paula O’Hanlon 63307

Alina Rotaru 28067 Karen Tuck 44771

Cameron Black 38594 Keith Preston 50962

Ainsley Robertson 11181 John Broers 83069

Lesley Dardis 42795 Anna Harnett 44727

Gavin Souter 93813 Hiranya Fadia 184882

Dorothy Fadia 249404 Katrina Cumine 62568

Duncan Smith 11475 Hazel Hiram 37460

Rachel Reid 71855 Savitha Raman 73222

Martin Wishart 63231 Kirsty MacKenzie 26153

Raghu Lal 32020 Malcolm Balfour 29871

James McCall 73073 Nat Chamberlain 70043

Mairi Maclean 67237 Isobel Mutch 63137

Hitesh Panchal 80678 Deepa Vakil 82580

Jane Lovell 11771 Alison Jane Kirkwood 94991

Martyn McGinley 97305 Fiona McLean 24818

Alan Marshall 74119 Colin Hunter

Hiranya Fadia 184882 Dorothy Fadia 249404

Jennifer McKenna 92564 Karen Dunn 85448

Jennifer Logan 10727 Bruce Duguid 72074

Caroline Bayles 70549 Blair Edwards 14765

Hari Lal 191333 Seema Luthra 191314

John Clydesdale 91524 Hazel Hannigan 91232

Pearse Hannigan 53852 Lindsay Smith 27580

Raymond Tollan 98572 Frances McDowall 82367

Eleanor Kelsey 23842 Alan Macleod 17758

Gordon McKinnon 10094 Kathryn Marley 10482

Dimitris Magliveras 27335 Sean Daly 18305

Ian Robertson 31194 Timos Kadaras 32864

Mike Gow Ian Macmillan 45380

Kenneth Barr 28800 Kenneth Macintyre 71625

Graham Pender 68865 Cate Wiewoirka 21115

Charlie Anderson 25302 Ahmed Khalid 36853

Laura Macleer Harvey 69291 Daniel Burns 23979

Jade Jackson Burns 89351 Philip Friel 33076

Martin MacEachen 28241 Ewa Rast 85657

Katerina Balani 12544 Rita Lopes 10798

Robin Robinson-Gregg 31188 Abigail Meiselbach 10687

Thomas Burns 19138 Neil Scott 60089

Slawomir Buchholz 64471 Rory Scott 13374

Aneta Kaczmarek 64460 Laura Iancu 12776

Craig MacDougall 12903 Dominique Vandenhoucke 10805

Martynas Zizas 10806 John O’Neill 96639

Kimberley Burns 10394 Andrew Gunning 29590

Fraser Hendrie 81466 John Booth 88044

Mark Buddy 37344 Jayne Grunwell 103046

Katie Fryar 10722 Carolyn Cole 59335

Daniel Burns 23979 Jade Jackson Burns 89351

Lindsay Gibson 51295 James Barnett 70600

Philip McMahon 38670 Janine Park 51460

Anouska Patel 10389 Sofia Shajahan 13078

Stephen Jacobs (private) Craig Taylor 55561

Fraser Callaghan 20956 Burhan Nasim 70369

Allan Rennie 89870 Ross Michie 59088

Calum Tevendale 19994 James Kerr

Stephanie Tevendale 2188 Camille Devine 11656

Paul Devine 25116 Andre Macinnes (GDH)

Raashi Tiwari Watson 29681 Malcolm McFadzean 25260

Emma McGroarty 13201 Ryan Stewart 12075

Evelyn Rennie 52164 Anastasia Martin 77678

Brian Easton 80135 Paul McGroarty 98719

Ryan Kirk 49948 Correen Locke 60659

Lyall Dominick 53016 Gillian Lee (private)

Lucy Swigciski (private) Ian McDonnell(private)

Rasha McDonnell (private) Bilal Alvi 13347

Jamie Bisset 22496 Jamie Roxburgh 70832

Iain Campbell 73076 Kenneth Wallace 68336

Marcus Ballantine 73071 Rajeev Nataraja 80770

Rhona Natataja 80608 Hannah Dunbar 10374

Alice Patterson 89580 Jonathan Sager 32240

Aimee McErlean 10275 Robert Paterson 10272

Bethan Davies 82683 Jamie Bisset 22496

Emma Sharkey 97396 James Roxburgh 70832

Helena blessing 76885 Jonathan Reid 14192

Abhishek Vijayakumar 54027 Finley Johnstone 12334

Girish Bharadwaj 91047 Brian Cullen 16828

Tejaswini Abhishek 10119 Paige shaw 23281

Jane Harrison 28330 Sherwz Shafiq 82411

Rachael Millard 61217 Ciara Baxter 93984

Bridget Chee 23143 Liliya Petrova 70145

Gareth McGeehan 68834 Shagufta Kauser 39093

Abdul Kobir 13444 Mohamad Gulfraz 69165

Mohammed samad 72884 Ross Pencovich 13194

James bence 67416 Manveer Gill 70003

Zubariya akbar 60178 Lorraine Bruce 80725

Zainab rizwan 66838 Jennifer Szuster 60036

Nimra sattar 90430 Jennifer Davidson 89975

Bilal Alvi 209002 Elise Gamie 27598

Maria Brincat 11021 Anu Mahajan 10242

Breige Sawers 13129 Iain Swan 75245

Lorna Dodds 98193 Joanne Cubuitt 12841

Haroon Ismail 17874 Elidi ku Neale 12295

Alison Jane Kirkwood 94991 Rose McKeogh 11714

Asha Kashyap 10587 Conor McCloskey 12170

Shoaib Hafeez 43269 Miriam Figge 45809

Paul Boyle 6341 Callum Ward 27412

Suzanne Berggren 1134 Maria Ertz 72769

Nicole Carlin 5348 Duncan Weir 176892

Rebecca Carslaw 1041 Carol Fish 10896

Sally Johnstone 9680 Janine Welsh 96523

Neil McFetridge 11090 Christopher Sharp 32583

Khuram Shafiq 66747 Melissa Manson 45536

James McIntyre 57835 Elizabeth Ann Stuart 70798

Haza Star 12595 Yvonne Bruehamm 80925

Ewen Hendry 16189 Raheela Raza 37855

Richa Sinha 39713 Nabila Raza 37867

Kathryn Sanaghan 35915 David Galloway 72116

Heather Nicholson 65452 Kiera Reid 33969

Ghyll McCallum 35749 Claire Gilsenan 14551

Alison Macdonald 48700 Alice Miller 90316

Patrick Lambert 80546 Pauline H Stanhope 38796

Rebecca Trayner 88423 Lorraine Bruce 80725

Grace Broers 10116 Neil Connell 75813

Utkantha Sharma 11420 Christine Ferry 15556

Hammad Beg 24065 Julia Hutchison 3719

Katie Whitehouse 43267 Maryam al jouhar 13188

Dayna Scully 13275 Raees Sheikh 10606

James Millar 11105 Sobiah Sattar 43236

Geoff Gordon 86813 Rana Monajed 12996

Gillian Mcalindon 32199 Shane Bradley 80938

Eleanor Kelsey 23842 Louise Bradley 70502

Alex MacKinnon 277070 Gillian Fotheringham 68826

Allan McMillan 16172 Katie Meldrum 10356

Steven Thompson 14387 Charles Crummey 6095

Aileen Thompson 18326 Natalie Doherty 84677

Emma Foggo 99228 Ryan Shum 61129

Sarah Lindsay 75503 Hannah Killough 29947

Brian clough 34607 Katherine Meilkejohn 150280

Ashleigh meikle 258091 Ramsay Young 10351

Omar Iqbal 89264 Deborah Hannigan 9471

Lee-Anne Scott 65622 Keith McFarlane 69272

Akshatha Kampli 11310 Graeme Bacchus 52847

Ahmed shaikh 98729 Glen Milne 10026

Katherine Scott 10454 Zuher Elgrady 77877

Peter Goudie 51783 Patricia Thomson 10705

Esther Mcbride 12276 Robbie Thomson (retired GDP)

Elspeth Curran 59793 Gordon Stewart 11765

Ruth Jennings 84086 Marion Stewart 44225

Alan Howie 85428 Elizabeth Fleming 65531

Michael Tang 10720 Tricia Granger 68908

Ioannis Sagxaridis 36714 Lindsay Andersson 64389

Ross Abel 27067 Per Andersson 73749

Grant McDonald 81576

Erin Hunter 81533

Emma McDonald 28942

Andrew Taylor 12671

Kathryn Rankin 60263

Stuart Rankin 62066

Stephen duggan 13486

Julie Gray 11398

Anna Cullen 11931

Lindsay Kearney 63216

Paul Devine 25116

Catherine Ferguson 74572

Usman Ullah 113427

Irfan Ghafoor 61684

Gregor Gray 24920

Summon Ramzan 66955

Linda Torzo 11038

Alan Macleod 17758

Jillian gray 38240

Jennifer Gilmartin 97701

Fiona Taylor 36624

Fiona Mcgregor 43710

Eileen Campbell 59380

Emma Hoy 12329

Gregory Canning 37271

James Craig 51903

Kerry Craig 87135

Elaine Cullinane 62267

Maria Landivar Tarborga 60477

Keith Hooper 67321

Lewis McDougall 12423

Dinah Naasan 11898

Maria Keane 12415

Barbara Bain 13474

Megan Morrison 10406

Declan Gilmore 76386

Dav Kalsi 12020

Umer Hameed 12477

Joseph Watson 16160

Paige shaw 23281

Jane Harrison 28330

Rachael Millard 61217

Bridget Chee 23143

Gareth McGeehan 68834

Abdul Kobir 13444

Mohammed samad 72884

James bence 67416

Zubariya akbar 60178

Zainab rizwan 66838

Nimra sattar 90430

Maria Brincat 11021

Breige Sawers 13129

Lorna Dodds 98193

Haroon Ismail 17874

Alison Jane Kirkwood 94991

Asha Kashyap 10587

Shoaib Hafeez 43269

Paul Boyle 6341

Suzanne Berggren 1134

Nicole Carlin 5348

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Dayna Scully 13275

James Millar 11105

Geoff Gordon 86813

Gillian Mcalindon 32199

Eleanor Kelsey 23842

Alex MacKinnon 277070

Allan McMillan 16172

Steven Thompson 14387

Aileen Thompson 18326

Emma Foggo 99228

Sarah Lindsay 75503

Brian clough 34607

Ashleigh meikle 258091

Omar Iqbal 89264

Lee-Anne Scott 65622

James McManus 65618

Madeline Moonie 51557

Margaret Dick 18264

Anna Papadaki 48304

Andrea Mathieson 11703

Michael Kean 12166

Joseph Devine 283133

Gerard Skeffington 83305

Katherine Rose 10076

Ayesha Ali 11909

John D McGregor 14349

Mohammed Touseef 59518

Gordon McKinnon 10094

Alyson Lovie 68090

Claire Overell 12359

Briege Sawers 13129

Eileen Campbell 59380

John Walker 60348

Stuart Campbell 36522

Mark Gardiner 12239

Syed Syibrie Radhie Syed Habib 60122

Mohammed Ahmed 76862

Craig Smith 12161

Amy Vaughan12162

Mohammed samad - 98533

Ranj abdulla- 12325

Claire connelly - 10455

Keeran McCarthy - 13180

Nimra sattar - 93363

John Price 85447

John Coxshott 58839

Paige Shaw 251233

Eva Constantine 1570-2

Umer Hameed 12477

Hassan Ali 82623

Gregory Edwards 64621

Maryan Abbas 277078

Neil Marshall 13208

Saima Khan 78191

Helen Dennis 57866

Anjum Baig 46107

Henry Chen 88756

Faiz Ulhaq 12672

Lorna McNair 11487

Colin Pratt 65054

Chloe Walker 93611

Maryanne Small 51056

Mohammed Sheikh 55363

Robin Moir 12369

Karen Simpson 59125

Katie MacDonald 12528

Howard Smith 46244

Jean Smith 43351

Frazer Murphy 14968

Doug Forsyth 14323