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By email:

Date: 29 November 2024
Email: CEO.NES@nes.scot.nhs.uk

Clare Haughey MSP
Convener, Health, Social Care and Sport Committee
Health, Social Care and Sport
HSCS.committee@Parliament.Scot

Dear Ms. Haughey

Dentistry in Scotland

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this important topic.

As a non-direct patient facing NHS Board, NHS Education for Scotland has a limited involvement in many of the issues raised by the series of questions in your letter which are more pertinent to colleagues in territorial health boards.

Our primary area is workforce supply and development of the workforce through education and training. The attached table provides data on inflow into the GDS workforce from 2015/2016 to the present.

I hope that this information is helpful in furthering the work of the Committee.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Karen Reid'.

Prof. Karen Reid



Chair: Dr David Garbutt
Chief Executive: Prof. Karen Reid

Vocational Training Numbers Issued

Category	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Mandatory	161	151	160	154	123	31	121	146	140
EC nationals	26	26	28	29	14	20	19	33	73
Health Board List	12	14	12	9	11	14	10	19	13
PDS	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Armed Forces	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Equivalence	21	33	29	32	21	13	14	20	13
Total	220	224	229	224	169	78	165	218	239

Notes

- The total is essentially a marker of new entrants into the GDS workforce.
- A Vocational Training Number allows a dentist to work as an Associate or Principal in NHS General Dental Service
- Notably there was a significant fall off in numbers of EC dentists coming to Scotland following Brexit. This trend appears to have been reversed.

Professor David H Felix
Postgraduate Dental Dean and Director of Dentistry