

# Highland Local Dental Committee

Minutes of meeting held 19:30 9th August 2021

Venue - Zoom.

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## AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
  2. Minutes of previous meeting
  3. Matters arising
  4. Meeting with CDO Tom Ferris
  5. Treasurer's Update
  6. AOCB
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## PRESENT:

**HA** Hazel Adamson  
**ZA** Zahid Ahmad  
**JB** John Barry (Chair)  
**EB** Eddie Bateman  
**AC** Andrew Cobban (Treasurer)  
**CD** Ciara Dunleavy  
**LG** Linda Garwood  
**SG** Shona Grant  
**MJ** Malcolm Jones  
**RL** Raghu Lai  
**LM** Lindsey Mathers  
**CMcL** Cameron McLarty  
**DMcS** Duncan McSporrán  
**KP** Karthikeyan Ponnusami  
**GR** Grant Rutherford  
**HW** Helen Wallace  
**NW** Neil Wallace (Secretary)

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## MINUTES

### 1. APOLOGIES:

**NB** Neeraj Bali  
**LS** Lynsey Smith

### 2. Previous minutes.

The minutes from the meeting held 7th July 2021 were proposed as an accurate record of the meeting by **JB** and seconded by **ZA**.

### 3. Matters Arising from previous minutes.

None.

### 4. Meeting with CDO Tom Ferris

On Friday 4th August 2021 - **LG**, **JB** and **EB** met with Chief Dental Officer for Scotland - Tom Ferris. The CDO was made aware of several issues important to us here in the Highlands.

- a. Partially committed GDPs have a large increase in costs following the covid measures he put in place, but a decrease in income. (Example - the increase in volume of clinical waste).
- b. The Low moral amongst the profession.

- c. The PDS have unprecedented demand due to increased number of patients unable to register with a GDP.
- d. Covid Topups, and the problems therein which we have discussed here at the LDC.
- e. Geographic difficulties with referral services
- f. Recruitment. The CDO was reminded that "golden hellos" and "remote rural fellowships" should be considered.
- g. Retention of DCPs. Dental practices are unable to meet wages paid by supermarkets.
- h. PPE. The CDO advised that there may be changes in September.
- i. Therapist recruitment and Therapist Vocational training.
- j. Loss of Dental Technicians. Many have left the business of dentistry and were unsupported over the pandemic.
- k. Low NHS fees.

The CDO said he would look individually at the specific cases of covid topups not being fairly implemented. (This has already had a result in at least one Highland GDP getting a retrospective payment.

The meeting was recorded. Could this be shared with the LDC?

**JB** concludes that the CDO was asked some tough questions, but didn't have all the answers.

#### **Follow up questions.**

- i. **HA** asked if PPE was discussed. The CDO mentioned a possible announcement of changes to the protocols towards the end of September.
- ii. **AC** asked whether fallow times were mentioned. Apparently they were not.

#### **5. Treasurer**

Treasurer **AC** reported that a Bank Account (with the Bank of Scotland) has been opened. **NW** and **LM** are to be added as signatories.

**AC**, **MD**, **NW** and **JB** to propose a funding model for the Highland LDC.

#### **6. AOCB**

- **LM** discussed PDS provision in Argyll and Bute. There is no clinician in post. Referrals are "going into the ether". **LG** says that this is in hand and that John Lyon has set up a progression plan.
- **CMCL** asks - "Are we ready to put a letter to the CDO and/or healthboar stressing that moral in the profession is low and threaten we withdraw some services". **GR** suggests that we should poll the group along these lines. He feels we are a bit of a talking shop currently.
- **ZA** reports that correspondence has been sent by the GDP sub-committee to the CDO, with John Lyon copied in.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

Virtual Meeting via Zoom - **Monday 27th September 7:30pm** .

**NW** to host and forward meeting invitations nearer the time.