

18 May 2026

Dear

ATISN 26902 – Proposed dentistry contract

Thank you for your request to Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 20 April 2026 regarding the proposed Welsh Dental contract.

You have requested the following:

1. *The basis and evidence used to determine the £90 remuneration figure for a partial denture, including any cost modelling, economic analysis, or benchmarking undertaken.*
2. *Details of any consultations carried out in relation to these remuneration figures, specifically:*
 - *Which dental laboratory representatives, organisations, or stakeholders were consulted (if any);*
 - *The nature, scope, and outcomes of those consultation*
3. *Any assessments, reports, or internal discussions that considered the viability of the £90 fee in covering the prescribing, design, and manufacturing costs associated with a partial denture.*
4. *Any impact assessments conducted regarding how these remuneration figures may affect dental laboratories, service provision, and patient outcomes in Wales*

Our Response

The Welsh Government previously contacted your organisation to support us in developing a tariff for laboratory items for exempt patients however we were advised that you could not offer any information. We also found that very few dental laboratories publish their NHS price list. We were able to obtain a copy of a survey undertaken by the British Dental Association in 2025. This data along with price lists from other dental laboratories, that were made available to us on a commercial in-confidence basis, were used as the basis for our assessment.

An implementation group comprising of Welsh Government, NHS and Welsh General Dental Practice Committee representatives (clinical and non-clinical) was established to support the implementation of the new General Dental Service (GDS) contract arrangements. Before finalising the laboratory tariff this group was asked to comment. As a result of that feedback the following changes were made:

- Increasing the limit for many of the items.
- For dentures we had originally proposed to include a tariff that covered both upper and lower dentures. This was changed, to include a fee on a per denture basis.
- Gold inlays/onlays were also removed due to the fluctuation of gold pricing making it very difficult to set a tariff.

After making these changes the implementation group were content for the tariff to be included in the General Dental Services Statement of Financial Entitlement.

Whilst the Welsh Government confirms that it holds information which fit the description of your request with regards to parts 1 and 2 above. We have concluded that the information

requested is exempt from disclosure under the following section of the Freedom of Information Act:

- Section 43(2) – Prejudice to Commercial Interests

An explanation of our application of this exemption is set out at Annex 1 to this letter.

With regards to part 3, the Welsh Government does not hold any information which fits the description of your request.

With regards to part 4, a Regulatory Impact Assessment and Equality Impact Assessment were prepared as part of the consultation on the reform of NHS GDS contract arrangements and are available on this link: [Reform of NHS general dental services | GOV.WALES](#)

Next Steps

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely,

Annex 1

Engagement of Section 43(2)

Section 43(2) Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).

Officials have carefully considered all of the information captured by this request and consider that the information in question should be exempt under Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act.

Section 43(2) is a public interest exemption. This means that in order to withhold information under its provisions, it has to be shown that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs that in releasing it.

The information you have requested includes commercially sensitive information regarding the unpublished price lists for dental laboratories operating in Wales. Therefore s43(2) exemption is engaged by the information captured by this request.

Public interest arguments in favour of release

There is a general public interest in the disclosure of information, as greater transparency makes Welsh Government and decision making more open and accountable.

Public interest arguments in favour of withholding

The information being withheld contains market sensitive information, related to the prices dental laboratories charge dental practices for laboratory made dental appliances. This information, if released, could have a detrimental effect on the commercial interests of the dental laboratories concerned, their commercial standing with suppliers and their ongoing ability to fulfil contractual obligations to provide dental appliances for NHS and private dental treatment.

In conclusion whilst recognising that a public interest argument for disclosure on grounds of transparency, we consider that the argument of preventing detrimental damage of the commercial interests of dental laboratories outweighs that in releasing the information in this instance.