

PRIME MINISTER

Doctors' and Dentists' Pay

These letters from the British Medical Association and the British Dental Association ask for an assurance that the latest Report of the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Pay will be implemented as soon as possible.

The Report was received by the previous Government before Easter, but no final decisions were taken on it in the run-up to the Election. However, the previous administration did write to the B.D.A. and B.M.A. reaffirming their commitment to bring doctors' and dentists' pay "fully up to date" by April 1980, and to update the 1978 Review Body's recommendations to take account of inflation over the past year. This year's Report recommends increases of about 26 per cent on average. It also includes recommendations for the new contracts for consultants and medical assistants: these are not altogether straightforward, and this was one reason why no decisions were announced before the Election.

I understand that your Party when in Opposition fully supported the previous administration's line on this issue. Mr. Jenkins will no doubt be giving the Report his early attention, but I suggest a reassuring letter from you to the two Associations would be desirable. I attach drafts accordingly.

6 May 1979

TL
Please see that Patrick Jenkins
approves the terms of the letter
before it is despatched. I have signed
ack.



RA

British Dental Association

R.B. ALLEN, B.Ch.D., F.D.S.R.C.S., Secretary

Limited by Guarantee (14161)

4 May 1979

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. M.H. Thatcher, PC MP,
10 Downing Street,
LONDON, S.W.1.

Dear Mrs Thatcher,

I wrote to Mr. Callaghan on 30 March 1979 urging in the strongest possible terms that his government's decision on the DDRB's Ninth Report be published at the earliest moment. I copied my letter to your colleague Mr. Patrick Jenkin.

Subsequently, Dr. Grey-Turner, Secretary of the BMA, wrote to Mr. Callaghan on behalf of both our professions reminding him of his government's commitment to update fully the Review Body's 1978 recommended rates of pay and stressing the importance which the medical and dental professions attach to an early announcement of the Government's intentions for the implementation of the Review Body's most recent recommendations.

Mr. Ennals replied on behalf of the Prime Minister, reaffirming the then Government's intention to honour its 1978 commitment.

Mr. Patrick Jenkin wrote to me on 12 April reminding me that when the DDRB's Eighth Report was published the Shadow Cabinet undertook to honour the arrangements set out in the Eighth Report in full. The British Dental Association fully accepts these undertakings but is anxious that there should be no undue delay in correcting the anomalies in doctors' and dentists' pay which have existed now for three years. I, therefore, ask that your Government awards a very high priority to a consideration of and announcement on the DDRB's Ninth Report.

Yours sincerely

R.B. Allen

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Your Reference

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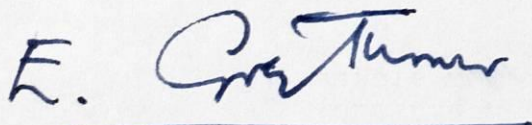
4 May 1979

Dear Prime Minister

The previous Government received the 1979 Report of the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration just before Easter. Despite repeated representations by me, your predecessor decided to leave the report to be published and decisions taken on it after the Election.

I am writing now to urge that this matter should be regarded as one of high priority for your new Government. You will remember that the 1978 award of the Doctors' and Dentists' Review Body was fully accepted by the Government and supported by your Party, then in Opposition. It was a phased award, the second phase to be paid on 1 April 1979. On behalf of the British Medical Association, I ask that you should publish the Ninth Report of the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration at the earliest possible moment and that your Government should implement it in accordance with your commitment of last year. I hope to hear that this is in fact your intention.

Yours sincerely



Secretary

4 MAY 1979



[Faint, mostly illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. Some words like "received" and "British" are faintly visible.]