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Announcement of methodological changes to *Dental Working Hours, Northern Ireland, 2010/11 and 2011/12*

This document announces two changes to the methodology used to produce the *Dental Working Hours, Northern Ireland, 2010/11 and 2011/12* report for Northern Ireland.

In order to collect the information required for the publication a survey is conducted of every dentist in Northern Ireland that has conducted some NHS activity in either 2010/11 or 2011/12. Previously the survey was a paper based survey posted to each dentist included in the population. For this publication the data collection methodology has changed to be electronic. Dentists included within the population were sent invitations in the post or via e-mail (where e-mail addresses were available) to the online survey. This enabled significant financial savings and improved efficiencies upon receipt of the returns.

Within the questionnaire itself two questions were adjusted. Questions 6, 7, 13 and 14 were changed from the previous survey to attempt to identify incorporated dentists. This is because the Dental Working Group have identified this group of dentists as one to be identified and taken into account in the publications produced by the group.

These changes have been agreed through the Dental Working Group, which has representation from The Department of Health and Social Care, The British Dental Association, The Secretariat for the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration, NHS National Services Scotland, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs: Knowledge, Analysis and Intelligence Division, and The National Association of Specialist Dental Accountants and Lawyers.