



## **BDA comments on the Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill (NI)**

The British Dental Association (BDA) is the professional association and trade union for dentists practising in the UK. Our members work in all spheres of practice including general dental practice, salaried primary dental care services, hospitals and universities and the armed forces and include dental students.

BDA welcome the opportunity to provide comments in respect of the Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill (NI).

### **BDA response**

#### **Part 1**

In relation to Part 1 of the Bill, BDA supports the proposal to restrict the sale of nicotine products to people over 18 years of age. It is not within our remit to comment on the proposed sanctions for breaching underage sale regulations.

#### **Part 2**

The Bill provides the Department with the regulatory powers to introduce a new contract for dental services, including the creation of a performers list. BDA is content that the proposed technical amendments outlined in Clause 6, 9 and 10 are necessary to ensure that the correct wording and legislative references are in place to enable the creation of contractual legislation.

The proposed amendments to give the Department powers to introduce a performers list, requires further detail and consideration of the potential impacts. The term 'performer' is not currently used in Northern Ireland and in the absence of a definition in the Bill, there must be an impact assessment on the practical implications and outturns of the introduction of a performers list. In particular, further clarity is required on listing requirements, the ability to engage a 'performer', service provision and the potential impact on payments such as practice allowance and pensions.

BDA recognise that much of the detail on how performers lists will be introduced in NI is not contained in this primary legislation and will be covered in subsequent subordinate legislation. BDA expect that this will be subject to full impact assessments and consultation.

It should also be noted that a new contract for GDS is a considerable time away and is dependent on progress and evaluation of GDS pilots in the first instance, before further negotiations between the BDA and DHSSPS.

**15 December 2015**