

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO THE
NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (DENTAL CHARGES) AMENDMENT
REGULATIONS 2005**

2005 No.576

1. This explanatory memorandum has been prepared by The Department of Health and is laid before Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

2. Description

2.1 These regulations further amend the National Health Service (Dental Charges) Regulations 1989. Regulation 2 increases from £378 to £384 the maximum charge payable by the patient for dental treatment and appliances, where the contract or arrangement leading to the provision of treatment or appliances is made on or after 1 April 2005.

3. Matters of special interest to the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments

3.1 None

4. Legislative Background

4.1 This Statutory Instrument is being made to effect the annual uprating to the maximum charge for a course of dental treatment.

5. Extent

5.1 This instrument applies to England. .

6. European Convention on Human Rights

6.1 Not applicable.

7. Policy background

7.1 The maximum dental charge is increased by the same cash amount as 2004, and the increase is within the range of current measures of inflation, an increase of 1.59 per cent (after rounding to the nearest whole pound). Individual dental charges are linked to the treatment fees payable to dentists so that patients continue to pay the same proportion of the cost of their treatment.

8. Impact

8.1 A Regulatory Impact Assessment has not been prepared for this instrument as it has no impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies

8.2 The impact on the public sector is to generate about £300,000 additional dental charge revenue in a full year.

9. Contact

Chris Audrey at the Department of Health Tel: 020 7972 3994 or e-mail: Chris.Audrey@dh.gsi.gov.uk can answer any queries regarding the instrument.