

**GENERAL HEALTHCARE POLICY  
DIRECTORATE**



To: All NI Ophthalmic Contractors  
BY EMAIL

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& Criminal Justice Healthcare  
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Date: 22 March 2021

**COVID-19: FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO OPHTHALMIC CONTRACTORS**

I am pleased to inform you that the Health Minister has approved the continuation of the current financial support scheme for ophthalmic contractors for quarter 1 of 2021/22 (April, May and June).

The provisions and need for the scheme will remain under review, with decisions on whether additional financial support is required being made in due course. Activity levels will continue to be monitored, as has been the case throughout the pandemic. An assessment of whether or not minimum activity thresholds would be of benefit to the scheme will take place. If any changes are to be introduced, consultation with the Optometry Northern Ireland will be conducted first and you will be notified of this accordingly.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation of the work you have undertaken during 2020/21. This has been a very difficult year for frontline workers in the Health and Social Care sector and your support and commitment over the last twelve months has been greatly appreciated.

Yours Sincerely

*Caroline Hickey*

**CAROLINE HICKEY  
GENERAL DENTAL, OPHTHALMIC SERVICES & CRIMINAL JUSTICE HEALTHCARE**