

# New measures to improve access to dental care

- All NHS dentists to receive fairer payments for providing more complex dental care to those who need it most
- Dentists will be required to update NHS website regularly to make it clear which practices are taking on new patients and the services available, improving access
- This will ensure the system better supports all dentists and their teams while also providing better value for money dental care for patients.

A new package of measures to improve patient access to dental care has been introduced by the government.

From today, NHS dentists will receive fairer payments for delivering complex dental care to incentivise practices to take on high needs patients who require treatment the most.

Previously dentists would receive the same payments for all treatments delivered within band two, which includes fillings and tooth extractions, regardless of the amount of time taken to deliver the work. For example, they would receive the same payment for one filling as three fillings.

This meant dentists may not have been able to afford to take on patients who had not seen a dentist for an extended period who require more extensive treatment as a result.

The contract changes, which come into force today, will provide fairer payments to dentists by taking into account the time taken to do the work, incentivising practices to provide the care needed for patients with complex and high needs.

Health Minister Neil O'Brien said:

I am determined to make sure everybody seeking NHS dental care can receive it when they need it.

Our new contract rewards dentists more fairly for taking on high needs patients and delivering treatments to those who need it most.

It will not solve all the problems overnight, but it will help improve access and ensure the system supports dentists and their teams.

The new contract will also require dental practices to regularly update information on the 'Find a Dentist' tool on the NHS website, ensuring it accurately reflects available services. This will help patients to locate practices taking on new patients and access the treatments they need quickly.

This government is also introducing legislation which will provide the General Dental Council (GDC) with greater flexibility to amend its international registration processes for overseas qualified dentists. This will pave the way for additional exams places and enable the GDC to recognise and accept more qualifications for dentists and dental care professionals who want to work in the UK and support a reduction in unnecessary delays.

Louise Ansari, national director of Healthwatch England said:

Thousands of people have spoken up about their struggles accessing an NHS dentist over the last few years, telling us about dental practices in many regions either closing down or not accepting new NHS patients. This announcement shows the power of their voices, with government listening and taking action.

The changes should help people find clear and up to date information on dentists taking on new NHS patients. While people with more complex dental problems will find it easier to access care because of the shift in how the NHS pays dentists. Ultimately, we hope these combined measures will help to reduce long waiting times, the extended periods of pain many people suffer and prevent the extreme cases of DIY dentistry we have seen.

These changes are a good start and when put into practice can help ensure dental care that is accessible and affordable to everyone who needs it.

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## [Regulatory Article \(RA\) 4809: Acceptance of Components – what's all the change about?](#)

### **Did you know...**

RA 4809 has changed a lot recently; this article explains why it changed, where it's going and tries to address some common misconceptions.

Historically we've not been good at requiring the right documentation for Aviation components, especially for Standard Parts (nuts, bolts, washers etc). Without the right documentation, non-aviation parts could be, and have been, fitted to aircraft, as found in MAA Audits.

There's an ocean of parts out there with sub-standard documentation and we need to stop adding to it. The changes to RA 4809 are intended to make sure

that we can all be confident that only safe and airworthy parts are fitted to aircraft.

## What are the changes?

RA 4809 Issue 7 (November 2021) changes have included:

- Certificate of Conformities (CoC) being permitted for new components only – this is moving closer to CAA Regulation
- MOD Form 3910s require the asterisked elements to be completed in the case of Airworthy Certified Items
- MOD Form 640s have been removed from Acceptable Means of Compliance

## Misconception 1

MOD Form 640s can't be used as a CoC.

Reality: MOD Form 640s can be used as a CoC, if they contain DEFCON 627 information. MOD Form 640s currently within the system are valid CoCs if they contain the relevant DEFCON 627 information. However, the Regulated Community are discouraged from using MOD Form 640s as new CoCs, due to the disparity of retention periods. If MOD Form 640s are being used as CoCs, they are to be retained for a minimum of 5 years beyond the Out of Service Date. Logistic retention policy requires MOD Form 640s to be retained for only 7 years. This has led to confusion and disposal of MOD Form 640s, used as CoCs.

What's coming next?

RA 4809 Issue 8 will be published in November 2022. Changes will include:

- a complete restructure to simplify the way that components are classified and the appropriate acceptance documentation
- CoCs should be from the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) and for new components only
- introduces the 8 requirements of an Authorised Release Certificate (ARC)
  - ARCs should be used for components following test, maintenance, modification, overhaul or repair

## Misconception 2

ARCs can't be used for new components.

Reality: ARCs can be used for new and used (tested, inspected, repaired or overhauled) components. It is only CoCs that are limited to being used for new components only.

- an annex will be added, that details the list of forms that the MAA recognises that meets these 8 requirements

Why are these changes being made?

Civil Regulation is more straightforward than the MAA's Regulation on the

acceptance of components. The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) allows only the use of Aviation Authority approved forms, e.g. CAA Form 1.

## Misconception 3

Civil aviation permits the use of CoCs for used components.

Reality: The CAA and the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) only allow CoCs for new Standard Parts, as per Regulation 145.A.42(a)(iv)]:

CAA 145.A.42:

- Classification of components. All components shall be classified into the following categories:
  - Components which are in a satisfactory condition, released on a CAA Form 1 or equivalent and marked in accordance with Subpart Q of the Annex I (Part 21) to Regulation (EU) No 748/2012, unless otherwise specified in Annex I (Part 21) to Regulation (EU) No 748/2012 or in this Annex II (Part 145).
  - Unserviceable components which shall be maintained in accordance with this Regulation.
  - Components categorised as unsalvageable because they have reached their mandatory life limitation or contain a non-repairable defect.
  - Standard Parts used on an aircraft, engine, propeller or other aircraft component when specified in the maintenance data and accompanied by evidence of conformity traceable to the applicable standard.
  - Material, both raw and consumable, used in the course of maintenance when the organisation is satisfied that the material meets the required specification and has appropriate traceability. All material shall be accompanied by documentation clearly relating to the particular material and containing a conformity to specification statement as well as the manufacturing and supplier source.

The CAA is able to take this approach as Maintenance Organisations only accept components from Part 21 and Part 145 approved organisations. The military environment isn't as simple. RA 1005 – Contracting with Component Organisations, does not have the same requirement for all Maintenance to be carried out by Maintenance Approved Organization Scheme (MAOS) (or equivalent) approved organisations. This provides Delivery Teams with the flexibility to contract with required organisations. This has previously seen unapproved organisations provide components, both new and repaired, with a CoC. The minimum requirements of a CoC do not include the vital information for repaired components, such as "lifing" information. CoCs do not provide the same detail of airworthiness information as an ARC. This is why the extra requirements for an ARC are being introduced to clarify and standardise this information. It is also why CoCs are not allowed for repaired components.

The reason only OEM CoCs will be allowed, is to minimise the opportunity for human errors to be made if information was to be transferred to new documentation. It also increases the chances of the traceability being

maintained.

The RA is being restructured for simplification. Having 8 requirements for an ARC detailed in RA 4809, means that organisations are able to determine if their documentation meets the requirements of an ARC. If it doesn't, it's possible for people to easily identify where the shortfalls are, and the risk associated with the shortfalls. This will aid Alternative Acceptable Means of Compliance, Waiver and Exemption applications.

Two Royal Air Force Engineering Officers inspect a RAF Typhoon as it undergoes essential maintenance. MOD Crown Copyright.

## What does this mean?

The changes to RA 4809 will mean that unapproved organisations (not MAOS or CAA/EASA Part 21/145 approved organisations), releasing repaired components on non-acceptable forms, will have to apply for Alternative Acceptable Means of Compliance, Waivers or Exemptions (AWE). Applications should be made in accordance with [MAA03: MAA regulatory processes](#). They will have to prove to the MAA that their documentation meets the requirements of an ARC. The eighth requirement will be the most difficult for these organisations to meet:

Be issued under Part 21 or 145 authority of the MAA or an Aviation Authority for which the MAA holds an extant Recognition, or for which there exists an extant UK bi-lateral agreement for items that have dual applicability.

It is through the AWE process that the MAA will provide this assurance and will carry out periodic reviews on the AWE throughout its lifespan.

There is an alternative method for organisations to comply with RA 4809. If an organisation has the sufficient knowledge of its subcontractor's components, then under the privileges of the organisation, it may release the component under its own Approval and their own ARC. RA 4812 – Certification of Air System Release and Component Release, provides more detail. Note that this RA is being updated in November 2022 to make the information about Contracting and Sub-contracting clearer.

## Feedback

RA 4809 Issue 8 has had 3 Notice of Proposed Amendments (NPA) to allow the Regulatory Community to view the changes. Note that the third NPA finished 26 September 2022, but feedback and discussion are always welcomed.

In November 2023, there will be a Post Implementation Review of RA 4809, so feedback after the changes have been made, will be reviewed.

All enquiries can be sent to [DSA-MAA-MRPenquiries@mod.gov.uk](mailto:DSA-MAA-MRPenquiries@mod.gov.uk).

## Going Forward

The MAA recognises that the changes to RA 4809 will require time to amend contracts and may not be economically appropriate for some organisations, given some Air System Out of Service Dates. This will require AWEs applications to cover any non-compliance, whether temporary or permanent.

The overarching aim of the changes is to improve Air Safety by providing greater traceability of parts and evidence that components are airworthy. This has been likened, by some, to attempting to drink the ocean. But for us to get anywhere we first need to turn off all the taps feeding into it; only then, together, we can do it!

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## [Thousands of survivors to be protected from prison abusers](#)

- new scheme to thwart domestic abuse campaigns from behind bars by blocking unwanted calls and letters from prisoners
- delivers on the government's Domestic Abuse Plan

Under the scheme, police forces, prison governors and victims' services will work hand-in-glove to automatically block offenders from calling or sending threatening letters to their victims.

The new Unwanted Prisoner Contact Service – trialled at Kent and Thames Valley earlier this year – will act immediately on any intelligence to contact jails and block offenders from sending further communications.

In practice, this will mean offenders will be physically unable to dial their victim's number from the prison landings or send out letters to the victim's address as these contact details will automatically be barred.

Crucially, the new scheme means survivors will not have to ask for help themselves, with other agencies and support services able to contact the service on their behalf – protecting them from further trauma.

By creating a single hub for police victims and support agencies, the new service will ensure a speedier response with dedicated case handlers quickly locating offenders and blocking contact. It will also prevent abusers from using other offenders to torment their victims by barring victims' contact details from all prison phones.

Minister for Prisons and Probation, Damian Hinds, said:

We will never tolerate domestic abusers who seek to continue their campaign of abuse from behind bars and will always take tough action against the prisoners responsible.

This new service delivers on our commitments in the national Domestic Abuse Plan and will better protect victims once their cowardly abusers are jailed.

During successful pilots, hundreds of victims came forward to request contact was blocked – showing the new model is more accessible and effective in identifying and protecting victims.

Diana Fawcett, Chief Executive of Victim Support, said:

Unwanted contact from offenders is frightening and stressful. It can stop victims from moving on with their lives and, particularly in cases of domestic abuse, is often used to intimidate victims and continue campaigns of abuse.

We welcome steps to make it easier and quicker to take action and hope that this will make a real difference for victims.

The move delivers on the cross-government Domestic Abuse Plan which sets out investment of £140 million to support victims and £81 million to tackle perpetrators.

The government also continues to implement the Domestic Abuse Act which recognises all forms of abuse beyond physical violence, introduces new offences for non-fatal strangulation and so-called revenge porn, as well as preventing abusers from being able to directly cross-examine their victims in family and civil courts. The vast majority of measures are now in force.

## **Notes to editors**

Requests to block contact can be made by the victim, on behalf of the victim with their consent, or by police, probation, victim services, friends, or family members of the victim without their consent. Each case will be

assessed individually.

Last year we passed our landmark Domestic Abuse Act 2021, alongside a comprehensive action plan of other non-legislative measures.

For the first time in history, we now have a general purpose legal definition of domestic abuse which emphasises that domestic abuse goes beyond physical violence, and includes emotional, coercive or controlling, as well as economic abuse.

This is in recognition of the devastating impact different forms of abuse can have on victims' lives.

On 30 March 2022, we published the cross-government Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan.

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## [Preferred candidate for Chair of the Judicial Appointments Commission](#)

News story

Helen Pitcher OBE announced as preferred candidate for next Chair of the Judicial Appointments Commission.



The Lord Chancellor, Rt Hon. Dominic Raab MP, confirmed today (28 November 2022) that the preferred candidate to be the next Chair of the Judicial Appointments Commission is Helen Pitcher OBE.

The Judicial Appointments Commission is the statutory independent selection body for judicial appointments in the courts and tribunals of England and Wales, and for some UK-wide tribunals.

Helen Pitcher has been selected following a rigorous assessment process conducted in accordance with Schedule 12 of the Constitutional Reform Act 2005. The Chair is appointed by His Majesty the King on the recommendation of



the Lord Chancellor.

The role is subject to pre-appointment hearing by the Justice Select Committee. Pre-appointment scrutiny is an important part of the appointment process for some of the most significant public appointments made by Ministers. It is designed to provide an added level of scrutiny to the appointment process. Pre-appointment hearings are held in public and allow a Select Committee to take evidence before a candidate is appointed. Ministers consider the Committee's views before deciding whether to proceed with the appointment.

## **Helen Pitcher Biography**

Helen Pitcher OBE is currently chair of the: Criminal Case Review Commission; the Public Chairs Forum and; Advanced Boardroom Excellence Ltd. Ms Pitcher holds two Non-Executive roles: C and C Group and; UB UK. Prior to this Ms Pitcher was: Chairman of Pladis Global between 2015-19; the Queen's Counsel Selection Panel between 2009-17 and; Director at Saville Group PLC between 2008-13.

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