Dear All,

As we enter another week of this lock down, we are hopefully beginning to see a return to slightly more normal times.

We have had a number of meetings with our DoD, Angus Walls and Lothian Health Board to try and address the lack of emergency care for our patients. As you are probably all aware, Duncan Street has now opened providing an additional 3 surgeries. Sighthill, Musselburgh and Howden are also opening. With the additional capacity the UDCC’s will offer a broader range of treatments and this was outlined in the letter from Angus Walls circulated last week.

With Nicola Sturgeon hopefully making an announcement this week to ease the lock down we can potentially look forward to getting back to work in some fashion.

We had a meeting organised with Tom Ferris, the CDO, the DPA’s and Lothian health Board to discuss the way forward last Friday. Unfortunately, the CDO cancelled this at very short notice, so we are still unclear of how the Scottish Government proposes to get dentistry back to work. Going forward we need clarity on Funding and PPE.

SDCCEP published new guidance last night. Dental Practice Reopening Following COVID 19 Shutdown. It has a lot of information that I have only just started to go through. I suspect that we will all be reading it today and following it’s guidance to get our practices prepared to reopen.

There has been some speculation about being able to treat Private patients but there is still no clear guidance on this.

Many thanks to all of you who have volunteered and are working in the UDDC’s.

I am continuing to work with the DPA’s, Angus Walls and Lothian Health Board to improve things for our patients and get further guidance about getting back to work.

I think that we all need to be applying whatever pressure we can to get us back to work as soon as possible.

Please take care and get in touch if you have any queries.