

Cyflwynwyd yr ymateb i ymgynghoriad y [Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol](#) ar [Deintyddiaeth](#)

This response was submitted to the [Health and Social Care Committee](#) consultation on [Dentistry](#)

D 02

Ymateb gan: | Response from: Unigolyn | An Individual

I can confirm that I am over 18 years old and you have my contact details via this email address. This is my personal and individual response. I would like my name and email address to be kept anonymous and confidential please.

I believe that dentistry provision in Wales has been declining for years and is broken.

I don't think the general public needs to be reassured that dental practices are safe. I think that the WG needs to get the dental industry back to its full capacity (including the NHS/GPs). The world is moving on from Covid after all, we are told it is safe to go about our business and return to our places of work, yet dental/GP appointments are still restricted and even when I went to see the dentist on an emergency basis, I was told I'd have to wait 3 months to have a root canal completed. This isn't good enough.

I ended up losing a tooth to extraction because the dentist wasn't able to sort out a hairline crack in the tooth in time. Brought on my bruxism due to anxiety exacerbated by the pandemic. It was either have the tooth extracted or put up with excruciating pain for 3 months, which obviously I couldn't do. That isn't what we have come to expect from a first world country.

I think the current protocol of jam packing as many "check ups" into a restricted system is flawed. People who have genuine concerns that need immediate treatment should be prioritised and check ups put further back until such a time as they have problems. Surely that is only fair? An increase in availability in 45 minute slots from the standard 30 minutes is also required so that root canal treatment and more intricate procedures can be carried out. There appears to be no flexibility at the moment.

I also think that more funding is required to encourage dentists to accept NHS patients. The amount of dentists going "private" these days is extremely worrying especially when you consider the charges that apply to private patients. Moving around the country you should be able to access a NHS dentist in your area at the time of moving, but some people are having to travel miles to continue with their existing NHS provision. Otherwise, you immediately get shoe-horned into a private practice and are unlikely to be accepted as an NHS patient again.

This is wrong, not what people pay their NI for. We are facing generations of children with crooked, missing teeth because the system is broken and older people losing their teeth sooner due to lack of provision and this has been the case for decades. The WG has been sitting with its eyes shut not building a dental service in Wales that is fit for purpose, let alone one that could survive the collateral damage of a pandemic.

I would urge WG to wake up to the fact that greater funding provision is required for our NHS services as a whole but none more so than dentistry. To work with universities to encourage more

dentists into the profession through scholarships or bursaries and continue to work with the practices when the dental students qualify. I would also want to see the barriers that Brexit has caused the employment of overseas professionals removed or reduced to alleviate the shortfall in staff at the present time. I would also want to see a cap placed on "private" dentists' charges so it discourages them from choosing to go private.

A root and branch review of the management framework of these services is bound to produce cost savings and remove red tape. A more streamlined management system that works with people at the front line would produce a far more efficient and pragmatic service to meet the needs of the people of Wales.

Thank you.