



Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP  
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care  
*Sent by email,*

19 July 2023

Dear Mr Barclay,

I am writing to you with an urgent plea, supported by over 1,300 dentists and dental students from across the country, for the government to take forward the core recommendations outlined in the Health and Social Care Committee's report on NHS Dentistry, published on 14 July 2023.

From funding to reform, the Committee have set out very clearly what needs to change.

Fundamentally it requires a decisive break from a discredited contract that has been in force since 2006. To put in place a model that is patient-centred and prevention-focused, that ensures the patients who need us most are no longer the least welcome.

We have been consistent in our calls for change. This is a recommendation we encouraged the Committee to take forward when I provided oral evidence to its inquiry earlier this year. Supported by the dentists and dental students that have signed this letter, I encourage the Department to set the groundwork for change, and at pace.

NHS dentistry faces an existential threat. Many NHS dentists are cutting back their NHS commitment, and many more are set to follow.

The Committee has rightly called for urgent and fundamental change. The marginal changes we have seen to date simply do not reflect the scale of the crisis my colleagues and millions of patients continue to face.

The clock is ticking on NHS dentistry. To save this service we need you to act now.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Shawn Charlwood'.

Shawn Charlwood  
Chair, General Dental Practice Committee  
British Dental Association

cc. Neil O'Brien MP, DHSC, Jason Wong, NHSE