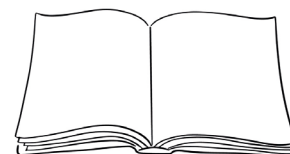


BDA library resources

The BDA's library offers a package of articles called 'Equality, Diversity and Inclusion' – a list of contents can be accessed at: <http://bda.247lib.com/bdalib/frm247CatDetails.aspx?CatalogueID=579682> – and it can be borrowed as a physical folder.

All of the articles included in it are all related to dentistry, medicine or public health.

All of our EDI ebooks are listed at, and can be accessed, from: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/JELA57/>



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NHS dentistry: Little evidence Ministers are ready to honour pledges on reform

The British Dental Association has warned government needs to show real ambition to bring NHS dentistry back from the brink, given the absence of any new commitments in Therese Coffey's 'Plan for Patients'.

While the new Health Secretary restated her 'ABCD' priorities – ambulances, backlogs, care, doctors and dentists – she offered no new proposals to halt the exodus of dentists from the NHS or expand access to care to patients.

News comes as over 60 MPs from across Parliament – led by the Mother and Father of the House – have called on the PM to make good on her campaign pledges on NHS dentistry. During the recent leadership election Liz Truss stated that action on the access crisis would form a 'top 3' target in her first 90 days.

The discredited NHS contract dentists in England work to is fuelling the access crisis. It puts government targets ahead of patient care, and caps spending to

cover barely half the population. Coffey's speech, the BDA say, offered nothing new, simply revisiting minor 'tweaks' to the contract announced before summer recess, which do nothing to improve access, or halt the exodus of dentists from the NHS, and had no additional funding attached.

The BDA is pressing for a decisive break from this failed contract, underpinned by sustainable investment. It would take an extra £880m a year simply to restore resources to 2010 levels. It warns that government objectives to improve access and boost retention

simply cannot be achieved within the financial constraints set by the Treasury.

BDA Chair Eddie Crouch said: 'Today we saw little evidence government is ready to honour its pledges on NHS dentistry. This isn't a partisan issue. Underfunding and failed contracts can be fixed, but we need real leadership across Whitehall. Millions of patients need these promises to be kept.'



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Support extended, but there can be no return to 'business as usual'

Dentists have warned that the Scottish Government's last-minute extension of financial support for NHS practices must go hand in hand with meaningful reform to avert a crisis in the service.

A new 'bridging payment' will replace the current 'multiplier' set to expire on 1 October, uplifting NHS fees a rate of 1.2 for the next three months, falling to 1.1 for the period up to April 2023.

The Cabinet Secretary had previously told the BDA that the multiplier – which at its current level increased NHS fees by 1.3 – had not been included in the Scottish Government's budget forecasting. The professional body has not ceased

reminding officials that without an adequate interim funding package several key treatments including extractions, and anything – like dentures – that requires laboratory work, risk being delivered at a financial loss.

The BDA stress that the new support package cannot presage a return to 'business as usual' from April 2023. Dentist leaders stress that in the months ahead efforts must be made to deliver needed change to the broken high volume/low margin model NHS dentistry is based on. Without reform, this package will simply delay an inevitable exodus of dentists from the NHS that is already evident in other UK nations.

David McColl, Chair of the British Dental Association's Scottish Dental Practice Committee said: 'The Scottish Government seem to have recognised the wholesale inadequacy of the funding model for NHS dentistry.'

'It's not rocket science. Without additional support, the basics of NHS care – from extractions to dentures – would have been delivered at a loss. No business can operate on that basis. We now need some serious long-term thinking. Unless Ministers are prepared to revisit the system this service is built on, this funding will amount to sticking plaster on a gaping wound. If this is just delaying the return to a broken 'business as usual' then millions of patients stand to lose out.'