

Summary of Northern Ireland Assembly Questions relating to Dentistry July – October 2022

No	Ref No	Member	Question	Tabled	Status
1	AQW 4911/22-27	Mrs Deborah Erskine (DUP - Fermanagh and South Tyrone)	To ask the Minister of Health (i) what dental workforce planning is being progressed at this time; and (ii) what efforts are being made to address recruitment and retention issues caused by pay disparity, the absence of Clinical Excellence Awards, pensions mitigations and timely funding to recruit to posts, particularly within the Hospital dental services.	19/10/2022	To be answered by 03/11/2022
2	AQW 4910/22-27	Mrs Deborah Erskine (DUP - Fermanagh and South Tyrone)	To ask the Minister of Health what reassurances can he give to the dental profession in response to British Dental Association's survey findings that morale among Health Service committed dentists is at rock bottom, and that there is significant uncertainty and a crisis of confidence among dental practitioners in Health Service dentistry at this time.	19/10/2022	To be answered by 03/11/2022
3	AQW 4847/22-27	Mr Stephen Dunne (DUP - North Down)	To ask the Minister of Health what steps he has taken to increase the provision of NHS dentists in North Down.	18/10/2022	To be answered by 02/11/2022
4	AQW 4677/22-27	Mr Justin McNulty (SDLP - Newry and Armagh)	To ask the Minister of Health to list the dental practices in Newry and Armagh that currently have spaces available for NHS patients. Answer: The BSO have records of which General Dental Practitioners (GDPs) have a contract with the Department of Health to provide NHS treatment, and in which practices they work. The BSO does not have information as to the capacity of each GDP's register. Patients can find a list of all General Dental Practices with at least one practitioner contracted to provide NHS treatment at http://online.hscni.net/other-hsc-organisations/hsc-service-finder . It can be used to search for dental practices in the patient's area, sorted by those closest to their address and then extending further afield. A contact number for each dental practice is available.	13/10/2022	Answered on 18/10/2022
5	AQW 4588/22-27	Mr Nick Mathison (APNI - Strangford)	To ask the Minister of Health where can members of the public who notice any potential signs or symptoms of oral cancers go to be checked out if they are not registered with a health service dentist, and cannot get registered with a health service dentist due to the current access problems. [Priority Written] Answer:	13/10/2022	Answered on 18/10/2022

			<p>Oral cancer can affect anyone and members of the public are encouraged to check for unusual changes in their mouths. Any person who is concerned about changes in their mouth is advised to contact a dental practitioner and explain their concern, along with any known risk factors including smoking or drinking alcohol.</p> <p>I am aware that lower levels of dental activity combined with a large backlog of patients are resulting in a continuing reduced capacity in general dental practices. To ensure that this more limited capacity is targeted appropriately, dentists are asked to prioritise patients requiring emergency or urgent care. This includes any patient concerned about oral cancer signs and symptoms.</p> <p>My Department has increased the availability of appointments for non-registered patients who have urgent and emergency treatments needs with a pathfinder scheme underway for unregistered patients, including asylum seekers, who have an urgent need.</p> <p>In addition, Emergency Dental Clinics have capacity to provide emergency dental care at weekends and public holidays. Members of the public concerned about any suspect changes in their mouth can contact a central triage telephone number where their issue will be triaged remotely, and appropriate advice given.</p>		
6	AQW 4512/22-27	Mr Phillip Brett (DUP - North Belfast)	To ask the Minister of Health, pursuant to AQW 3954/22-27, to provide details of the scheme commenced by his Department on 3 October, aimed at providing access to non-registered patients who are experiencing an emergency or urgent dental condition. [Priority Written]	12/10/2022	To be answered by 20/10/2022
7	AQW 4495/22-27	Mr Nick Mathison (APNI - Strangford)	<p>To ask the Minister of Health what action he is taking to ensure that dental practices can continue to sustainably provide health service treatments, in light of 12 per cent dental inflation rates.</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p>I have considered and accepted the recommendations made by the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration (DDRB) in their 50th report that would provide a 4.5% pay uplift to General Dental Practitioners for 2022/23. However, unlike my colleagues in other parts of the United Kingdom, I am unable to announce the immediate implementation of these pay awards locally, as Northern Ireland still does not have an agreed Executive Budget for 2022/23.</p> <p>Whilst elements of the pay uplift are outwith the control of the Department of Health, particularly this year, I will do everything I can to implement as soon as possible.</p> <p>Additional support is also being provided to the sector via the General Dental Services Rebuilding Support Scheme, which has paid an enhancement on all Items of Service undertaken in the first two quarters of 2022/23, and will continue with a 10% enhancement throughout Q3 and Q4.</p>	12/10/2022	Answered on 18/10/2022
8	AQW 4416/22-27	Mr Nick Mathison (APNI - Strangford)	To ask the Minister of Health why more notice was not given to dental practices, informing them that the 25 per cent uplift on fees paid for health service treatments will be reduced to 10 per cent next month. [Priority Written]	11/10/2022	To be answered by 17/10/2022

9	AQW 4360/22- 27	Mr Patsy McGlone (SDLP - Mid Ulster)	To ask the Minister of Health what his Department is doing to address the lack of NHS places in dental practices in Mid Ulster.	10/10/2022	To be answered by 25/10/2022
10	AQW 4346/22- 27	Mr Nick Mathison (APNI - Strangford)	To ask the Minister of Health what action he is taking to ensure that everyone is able to access Health Service dental treatments.	10/10/2022	To be answered by 25/10/2022
11	AQW 4344/22- 27	Mr Nick Mathison (APNI - Strangford)	To ask the Minister of Health why the 25 per cent uplift to the Rebuilding Support Scheme for dental practices is to be reduced to 10 per cent. [Priority Written]	10/10/2022	To be answered by 14/10/2022
12	AQW 4339/22- 27	Mr Nick Mathison (APNI - Strangford)	To ask the Minister of Health for an update on the development of a new Oral Health Strategy for Northern Ireland. Answer: Prior to the Covid 19 pandemic my Department decided that the two sections of the Northern Ireland population that would benefit most from updated oral disease prevention programs were children and the older population. Unfortunately, the pandemic delayed the establishment of the two planned working groups, but significant progress has been made by two oral health groups - one dedicated to improving the oral health of children and the other specifically looking at improving the oral health of older people. The challenges facing the HSC and DoH today mean that, unfortunately, the significant resources required to develop a new wide-ranging OHS are not available at this time. However, the importance of analysing the oral health status of the population and recommending evidence-based approaches to health improvement is recognised. In addition, my Department has funded a dental health survey of five year old children this financial year, and a survey of twelve year old children is planned for 2022/23. These surveys will provide key information for future planning of oral health improvement in Northern Ireland.	10/10/2022	Answered on 18/10/2022
13	AQW 4272/22- 27	Mr Nick Mathison (APNI - Strangford)	To ask the Minister of Health whether (i) an analysis has been carried out in relation to the impact of reduced access to health service dental treatment in the community on the number of emergency dental procedures being carried out; and (ii) the cost impact of any increase in emergency dental procedures been assessed. [Priority Written]	07/10/2022	To be answered by 12/10/2022

14	AQW 4226/22- 27	Mr Mark Durkan (SDLP - Foyle)	<p>To ask the Minister of Health to provide an update on a renewed Oral Health Strategy.</p> <p>Answer: Prior to the Covid 19 pandemic my Department decided that the two sections of the Northern Ireland population that would benefit most from updated oral disease prevention programs where children and the older population. Unfortunately, the pandemic delayed the establishment of the two planned working groups, but significant progress has been made by two oral health groups - one dedicated to improving the oral health of children and the other specifically looking at improving the oral health of older people. The challenges facing the HSC and DoH today mean that, unfortunately, the significant resources required to develop a new wide-ranging OHS are not available at this time. However, the importance of analysing the oral health status of the population and recommending evidence-based approaches to health improvement is recognised. In addition, my Department has funded a dental health survey of five year old children this financial year, and a survey of twelve year old children is planned for 2022/23. These surveys will provide key information for future planning of oral health improvement in Northern Ireland.</p>	06/10/2022	Answered on 18/10/2022
15	AQW 4182/22- 27	Ms Claire Sugden (IND - East Londonderry)	<p>To ask the Minister of Health how, amid cuts to the Rebuilding Support Scheme fees being paid to NHS dentists, he will ensure that (i) no NHS dentist is operating at a loss; (ii) everyone who needs NHS dental treatment is able to register with a dentist and receive timely care; and (iii) health service dentistry is future-proofed and sustainable. [Priority Written]</p>	06/10/2022	To be answered by 11/10/2022
16	AQW 4158/22- 27	Mr Mark Durkan (SDLP - Foyle)	<p>To ask the Minister of Health what steps have been taken to tackle dental care inequalities for adults and children in Northern Ireland.</p>	05/10/2022	To be answered by 20/10/2022
17	AQW 4154/22- 27	Mr Mark Durkan (SDLP - Foyle)	<p>To ask the Minister of Health for his assessment of the impact that dental surgeries unable to accept registrations from NHS patients will have on children's oral health.</p>	05/10/2022	To be answered by 20/10/2022
18	AQW 4153/22- 27	Mr Mark Durkan (SDLP - Foyle)	<p>To ask the Minister of Health to outline the number of people under 18 years of age who have had operations to remove rotting teeth for each of the last five years.</p> <p>Answer: The number of people under 18 years of age who have had operations to remove rotting teeth for each of the last five years is not available. The HSC Business Services Organisation (BSO) holds information on treatments that take place in primary care i.e. high street dental practices employing a dentist who has made an arrangement with the Department of</p>	05/10/2022	Answered on 12/10/2022

Health's Strategic Planning and Performance Group (SPPG) to provide health service dentistry. BSO does not hold any information in relation to wholly private treatments that are carried out by dental practices. The number of children's teeth extracted, and the number of children treated for an extraction, under health service dentistry in primary care for each of the last five complete financial years, are shown in Table 1. Extractions are not always performed on decayed teeth, particularly in preparation for orthodontic treatments where healthy teeth will be extracted. BSO does not hold information on the reason for an extraction, therefore the numbers in Table 1 represent more than just the extraction of decayed teeth. In addition, children who have extractions carried out in hospital under general anaesthetic are not included in these figures nor are those who may have had extractions in Urgent Dental Care Centres which were set up during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Table 1: Number of teeth extracted from children and the number of unique children¹ treated for an extraction² under health service dentistry in primary care by Financial Year³.

Financial Year ³	Teeth Extracted from Children	Unique Children Treated ¹
2017-18	31,801	19,242
2018-19	30,879	19,126
2019-20	30,869	18,638
2020-21 ⁴	14,626	9,248
2021-22	21,903	13,408

Source: Family Practitioner Services, HSC Business Services Organisation.

¹ Age is calculated at the start of treatment. Children are those under 18.

² Treatment codes for extractions are all 21, 22 and 52 codes except 2121 and 5206. (See SDR for more details <http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/2069.htm>). Based on paid treatments and information supplied by dentist making the claim. Excludes all private work. Excludes work carried out in hospitals. May include small number of duplicates.

³ Financial year relates to when claim was paid, this is not necessarily the same year as when the treatment took place.

⁴ On 23rd March 2020, general dental practitioners (GDPs) were advised to continue to see patients who did not meet the COVID-19 case definition and who required urgent dental care which could be provided using non-aerosol generating procedures (AGPs) however all routine dental treatment was to be postponed. In addition, 5 Trust-based Urgent Dental Care Centres were opened at the beginning of April 2020. From 29th June 2020, non-urgent dental care was provided under Phase 2 but AGPs were still prohibited. It was decided to offer a fast-track option to move to Phase 3 from 1 July 2020 onwards for those practices that are able to demonstrate that they meet all the necessary standards to safely offer AGPs and non-urgent/routine care.

			<p>The number of admissions of under 18's to HSC hospitals in Northern Ireland for a tooth extraction, for each of the last five complete financial years, are shown in Table 2. These figures also represent the total number of extractions and cannot be broken down by reason for extraction, so the number of admissions to remove rotting teeth is not available.</p> <p>Table 2: Number of Admissions⁵ to HSC Hospitals in Northern Ireland for a Tooth Extraction⁶, 2017/18 - 2021/22</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Financial Year</th> <th>Number of admissions⁵ for under 18's</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2017/18</td> <td>5,432</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018/19</td> <td>4,887</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019/20</td> <td>4,734</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020/21</td> <td>1,825</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021/22</td> <td>2,829</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Source: Hospital Inpatient System ⁵ Admissions are approximated through hospital discharges. These figures do not denote individuals ⁶ Tooth Extraction procedures have been identified using the OPCS4.8 codes F09 and F10 in the primary procedure fields in the Hospital Inpatient System</p>	Financial Year	Number of admissions ⁵ for under 18's	2017/18	5,432	2018/19	4,887	2019/20	4,734	2020/21	1,825	2021/22	2,829		
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19	AQW 4059/22-27	Mr Andrew Muir (APNI - North Down)	<p>To ask the Minister of Health how his Department monitors the number of Dental Surgeries in Northern Ireland that accept new NHS patients.</p> <p>Answer: The Business Services Organisation (BSO) has records of which General Dental Practitioners have a contract with the Department of Health to provide NHS treatment, and in which practices they work. However, the BSO does not have information as to the capacity of each GDP's register, nor whether they are currently in a position to register new patients.</p>	04/10/2022	Answered on 12/10/2022												
20	AQW 4058/22-27	Mr Andrew Muir (APNI - North Down)	<p>To ask the Minister of Health (i) how many dental surgeries in North Down are currently accepting new NHS registered patients; and (ii) where can patients find this information.</p> <p>Answer: Neither the Department of Health nor the Business Services Organisation (BSO) hold this information. The BSO have records of which General Dental Practitioners (GDPs) have a contract with the Department of Health to provide NHS treatment, and in which practices they work. The BSO does not have information as to the capacity of each GDP's register.</p>	04/10/2022	Answered on 07/10/2022												

			Patients can find a list of all General Dental Practices with at least one practitioner contracted to provide NHS treatment at http://online.hscni.net/other-hsc-organisations/hsc-service-finder . It can be used to search for dental practices in the patient's area, sorted by those closest to their address and then extending further afield. A contact number for each dental practice is available.		
21	AQW 4005/22-27	Ms Paula Bradshaw (APNI - South Belfast)	To ask the Minister of Health (i) what action his Department is taking to address loss making and inadequate fees for dental treatments such as dentures, fillings and extractions, following evidence provided by BDA; and (ii) for his assessment of dentists having to provide specific treatments at a financial loss.	03/10/2022	To be answered by 18/10/2022
22	AQW 4004/22-27	Ms Paula Bradshaw (APNI - South Belfast)	To ask the Minister of Health what steps he is taking to address morale among Health Service committed dental practitioners. Answer: The impact of the pandemic on the practice of dentistry has been particularly severe and I am very grateful for the commitment of local dentists who have continued to provide an essential services under very difficult circumstances. To help sustain General Dental Services (GDS) in the face of the impact of the pandemic, my Department provided ?76m in financial support to independent General Dental Practitioners (GDPs) over the last 2 years. Further funding was provided during the first half of 2022/23, with Item of Service (IoS) payments being enhanced by 25% as part of the Rebuilding Support Scheme (RSS), to reflect the ongoing pandemic pressures practices are facing. This support has been extended until the end of 2022/23 with a 10% enhancement on IoS payments. This is further investment, projected to be a further ?2m, in a key service that has received significant support since the outset of the pandemic. In addition, I have considered and accepted the recommendations made by the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration (DDRB) in their 50th report that would provide a 4.5% pay uplift to GDPs for 2022/23. Whilst elements of the pay uplift are outwith the control of the Department of Health, particularly this year, I will do everything I can to implement as soon as possible. My Department continues to engage with the dental industry via the British Dental Association (BDA). In 2021 the Contract Reform Group was established to work with representatives from the BDA in a collaborative approach, to examine how to make improvements in the dental contract in the short and longer term to ensure that Health Service dentistry is sustainable and delivers for both patients and the profession.	03/10/2022	Answered on 18/10/2022
23	AQW 3993/22-27	Ms Paula Bradshaw (APNI - South Belfast)	To ask the Minister of Health how his decision to cut interim dental funding through the Rebuilding Support Scheme from 25 per cent to 10 per cent enhancement from October can help address the dental access crisis in Northern Ireland. Answer:	03/10/2022	Answered on 12/10/2022

			<p>The General Dental Services (GDS) Rebuilding Support Scheme (RSS) was introduced in April 2022 to support dental practitioners with the impact of the pandemic. With the impact of the pandemic significantly reducing over the past few months and most restrictions now removed, the justification for ongoing support has also reduced. However, it is acknowledged that the impacts have not entirely receded with inefficiencies created by increased "Did Not Attends" and associated staff absences. It is for this reason that I committed to continuing support to the end of the financial year.</p> <p>To ensure that those patients most in need are able to obtain a dental appointment, any General Dental Practitioner signed up to the RSS is required to treat patients with an urgent or emergency dental condition based on clinical need, regardless of their registration status.</p> <p>In addition, any patient who has an urgent or emergency dental need, including those on pension credit or those entitled to free dental treatment, is able to make use of an Emergency Dental Clinic during weekends or Public Holidays. There the patient will be triaged remotely, and appropriate advice given or treatment arranged. To further help those in most need, on 3 October 2022, my Department commenced a scheme throughout Northern Ireland to provide access to non-registered patients who are experiencing an emergency or urgent dental condition.</p> <p>Support being provided to dental practices will remain under ongoing review.</p>		
24	AQW 3992/22-27	Ms Paula Bradshaw (APNI - South Belfast)	<p>To ask the Minister of Health whether he will commit to prioritising an independent Cost of Service review as an essential step to recalibrating dental fees that are fair, reasonable and workable at practice and practitioner level.</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p>The current focus of my Department is to rebuild General Dental Services so that the immediate oral health needs of the public are met in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. In parallel the Dental Contract Reform Group is exploring options to ensure that Health Service dentistry is sustainable and delivers for both patients and the profession. Undertaking a Cost of Service Review will be an important part of any new approach.</p>	03/10/2022	Answered on 12/10/2022
25	AQW 3955/22-27	Mr Phillip Brett (DUP - North Belfast)	<p>To ask the Minister of Health what his Department is doing to address the lack of NHS places in dental practices in North Belfast.</p>	03/10/2022	To be answered by 18/10/2022
26	AQW 3954/22-27	Mr Phillip Brett (DUP - North Belfast)	<p>To ask the Minister of Health what support is available to those people on Pension Credit and are unable to secure an NHS place, with the cost of dental treatment. [Priority Written]</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p>Access to routine dental care continues to be significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, which caused reduced activity and therefore reduced capacity in dental practices. In order to increase activity in General Dental Services, I introduced the Rebuilding Support Scheme (RSS), which rewards dentists based on treatments</p>	03/10/2022	Answered on 07/10/2022

			<p>being provided. The RSS has seen an increase in activity levels of around 16.5% over the first 5 months of 2022/23 and support will continue until the end of the financial year.</p> <p>Any General Dental Practitioner signed up to the RSS is required to treat patients based on clinical need, regardless of their registration status. This is to ensure that those patients most in need are able to obtain a dental appointment.</p> <p>In addition, any patient who has an urgent or emergency dental need, including those on pension credit or those entitled to free dental treatment, is able to make use of an Emergency Dental Clinic during weekends or Public Holidays. There the patient will be triaged remotely, and appropriate advice given or treatment arranged. To further help those in most need, on 3 October 2022, my Department commenced a scheme throughout Northern Ireland to provide access to non-registered patients who are experiencing an emergency or urgent dental condition.</p> <p>Support being provided to dental practices will continue to remain under ongoing review.</p>		
27	AQW 3904/22-27	Mr Colm Gildernew (SF - Fermanagh and South Tyrone)	To ask the Minister of Health what work his Department has undertaken to develop and implement an updated Oral Health Strategy.	30/09/2022	To be answered by 17/10/2022
28	AQW 3903/22-27	Mr Colm Gildernew (SF - Fermanagh and South Tyrone)	To ask the Minister of Health whether his Department will reconsider the planned reduction in the Rebuilding Support Scheme uplift from 25 per cent to 10 per cent, in light of concerns raised by the British Dental Association.	30/09/2022	To be answered by 17/10/2022
29	AQW 3902/22-27	Mr Colm Gildernew (SF - Fermanagh and South Tyrone)	To ask the Minister of Health whether his Department has conducted an assessment of the expected impact on the viability of dental practices stemming from the planned reduction in the Rebuilding Support Scheme uplift from 25 per cent to 10 per cent.	30/09/2022	To be answered by 17/10/2022
30	AQW 3857/22-27	Mr Colin McGrath (SDLP - South Down)	<p>To ask the Minister of Health for his assessment of the availability of NHS dental places given recent research conducted by the BBC highlighting that 90% of practices are not taking new adult patients and 88% are not taking on new child patients.</p> <p>Answer: Access to routine dental care continues to be significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has caused reduced activity and therefore reduced capacity in dental practices. In order to increase activity in</p>	30/09/2022	Answered on 10/10/2022

			<p>General Dental Services, I introduced the Rebuilding Support Scheme (RSS), which rewards dentists based on treatments being provided. The RSS has seen an increase in activity levels of around 16.5% over the first 5 months of 2022/23.</p> <p>Any General Dental Practitioner signed up to the RSS is required to treat patients based on clinical need, regardless of their registration status. This is to ensure that those patients most in need are able to obtain a dental appointment.</p> <p>In addition, any patient who has an urgent or emergency dental need, including those on pension credit or those entitled to free dental treatment, is able to make use of an Emergency Dental Clinic during weekends or Public Holidays. There the patient will be triaged remotely, and appropriate advice given or treatment arranged. To further help those in most need, on 3 October 2022, my Department commenced a scheme throughout Northern Ireland to provide access to unregistered patients who are experiencing an emergency or urgent dental condition.</p> <p>Support being provided to dental practices will remain under ongoing review.</p>		
31	AQW 3856/22-27	Mr Colin McGrath (SDLP - South Down)	<p>To ask the Minister of Health for his assessment of the impact of the reduction from 25 to 10 per cent in the uplift on dental fees paid for health service treatments to help dentists recover from the impact of Covid.</p>	30/09/2022	To be answered by 17/10/2022
32	AQW 3755/22-27	Ms Paula Bradshaw (APNI - South Belfast)	<p>To ask the Minister of Health what action his Department is taking to mitigate the impact of soaring expenses for dental practices, when fees to provide Health Service dentistry are fixed by his Department.</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p>I have considered and accepted the recommendations made by the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration (DDRB) in their 50th report that would provide a 4.5% pay uplift to GDPs for 2022/23. Whilst elements of the pay uplift are outwith the control of the Department of Health, particularly this year, I will do everything I can to implement as soon as possible. This process will also address increases in expenses. Additional support is also being provided to the sector via the GDS Rebuilding Support Scheme, which has paid a 25% enhancement on all Items of Service undertaken in the first two quarters of 2022/23, and will continue with a 10% enhancement throughout Q3 and Q4.</p>	28/09/2022	Answered on 07/10/2022
33	AQW 3291/22-27	Mrs Pam Cameron (DUP - South Antrim)	<p>To ask the Minister of Health for his assessment of the reasons for the increase in those leaving the medical and dental professions, as noted in the recently published March 2022 Health and Social Care Workforce Census.</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p>HSC leavers and joiners in the March 2022 publication were calculated by comparing the snapshots of individuals employed at 31 March 2021 with individuals employed at 31 March 2022. This included permanent and temporary contracts only. Those who appeared on the March 2022 dataset, but not March 2021, were</p>	21/09/2022	Answered on 03/10/2022

classed as joiners. Those who appeared on the March 2021 dataset, but not March 2022, were classed as leavers. This means that the analysis relates to leavers from, and joiners to, HSC permanent/temporary employment in the previous year. However, it is important to note that they may not have left the medical or dental professions. Doctors in training are excluded from the analysis due to the planned rotation of posts during their training. This means that HSC joiner figures will not include the newly qualified; nor will it count as joiners the HSC doctors in training in March 2021 who by March 2022 have achieved an HSC consultant or another post e.g. specialty doctor.

The overall position shows that there was a net increase in the total of HSC Medical & Dental staff in post (excluding doctors in training) in March 2022 compared to the previous year (by a count of 72 staff in post or 69.5 whole-time equivalent), see table below. Much of this net increase resulted from doctors in training achieving the Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT) and gaining HSC consultant posts by March 2022.

Medical & Dental (excluding doctors in training categories)	Count of staff in post	Whole-time equivalent
At 31 March 2021	2,997	2,634.5
At 31 March 2022	3,069	2,704.0
Net Change	72	69.5

Source: *HSC Workforce Census March 2021* and *HSC Workforce Census March 2022*

In addition, it is likely that the last couple of years of joiners and leavers trends have been disrupted by temporary Workforce Appeal appointments which last between 3 and 6 months.

I remain fully committed to expanding our local workforce to meet identified needs and rebuild of our health and social care system. I announced a ?2.1m healthcare education and training package on 11 May 2022, including an additional 13 medical specialty training places. The Northern Ireland Medical Foundation Programme also received 19 additional places above the current 252 baseline.

I added 10 GP training places in 2022/23, building on continuing work to invest in our GP workforce which has seen the number of GP trainees increase by over 70% from 2015/16 levels. Finally the number of filled Foundation Dentist posts in 2022/23 increased by 3 (10%) over the previous year, providing some additional capacity.

However, much more needs to be done. Accordingly, on 15 June 2022 I published the *Health and Social Care Workforce Strategy Second Action Plan (2022-23 to 2024-25)*, setting out a challenging range of measures to train, recruit and retain healthcare staff to ensure that we have a workforce of the optimum size and with the right range of skills.

Growing the local supply of healthcare workers depends upon the availability of significant, sustained, recurrent investment in pre- and post-registration education and training. Current levels of funding are wholly inadequate

			<p>and the one year funding cycle the Department has had to work under seriously constrains a proper assessment of affordability and frustrates long term investment in these areas.</p> <p>I would therefore reiterate my previously expressed view that it is essential my Department has a multi-year budget to produce a three year education and training budget plan. Restoration of the Executive is also crucial, so that the difficult, long-term decisions about the prioritisation and allocation of finance for investment in the healthcare workforce can be made.</p>														
34	AQW 3290/22- 27	Mrs Pam Cameron (DUP - South Antrim)	<p>To ask the Minister of Health for his assessment of the reasons for the decline in those joining the medical and dental professions, as noted in the recently published March 2022 Health and Social Care Workforce Census.</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p>HSC leavers and joiners in the March 2022 publication were calculated by comparing the snapshots of individuals employed at 31 March 2021 with individuals employed at 31 March 2022. This included permanent and temporary contracts only. Those who appeared on the March 2022 dataset, but not March 2021, were classed as joiners. Those who appeared on the March 2021 dataset, but not March 2022, were classed as leavers. This means that the analysis relates to leavers from, and joiners to, HSC permanent/temporary employment in the previous year. However, it is important to note that they may not have left the medical or dental professions. Doctors in training are excluded from the analysis due to the planned rotation of posts during their training. This means that HSC joiner figures will not include the newly qualified; nor will it count as joiners the HSC doctors in training in March 2021 who by March 2022 have achieved an HSC consultant or another post e.g. specialty doctor.</p> <p>The overall position shows that there was a net increase in the total of HSC Medical & Dental staff in post (excluding doctors in training) in March 2022 compared to the previous year (by a count of 72 staff in post or 69.5 whole-time equivalent), see table below. Much of this net increase resulted from doctors in training achieving the Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT) and gaining HSC consultant posts by March 2022.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Medical & Dental (excluding doctors in training categories)</th> <th>Count of staff in post</th> <th>Whole-time equivalent</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>At 31 March 2021</td> <td>2,997</td> <td>2,634.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>At 31 March 2022</td> <td>3,069</td> <td>2,704.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Net Change</td> <td>72</td> <td>69.5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Source: <i>HSC Workforce Census March 2021</i> and <i>HSC Workforce Census March 2022</i></p> <p>In addition, it is likely that the last couple of years of joiners and leavers trends have been disrupted by temporary Workforce Appeal appointments which last between 3 and 6 months.</p> <p>I remain fully committed to expanding our local workforce to meet identified needs and rebuild of our health and social care system. I announced a ?2.1m healthcare education and training package on 11 May 2022,</p>	Medical & Dental (excluding doctors in training categories)	Count of staff in post	Whole-time equivalent	At 31 March 2021	2,997	2,634.5	At 31 March 2022	3,069	2,704.0	Net Change	72	69.5	21/09/2022	Answered on 03/10/2022
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			<p>including an additional 13 medical specialty training places. The Northern Ireland Medical Foundation Programme also received 19 additional places above the current 252 baseline.</p> <p>I added 10 GP training places in 2022/23, building on continuing work to invest in our GP workforce which has seen the number of GP trainees increase by over 70% from 2015/16 levels. Finally the number of filled Foundation Dentist posts in 2022/23 increased by 3 (10%) over the previous year, providing some additional capacity.</p> <p>However, much more needs to be done. Accordingly, on 15 June 2022 I published the <i>Health and Social Care Workforce Strategy Second Action Plan (2022-23 to 2024-25)</i>, setting out a challenging range of measures to train, recruit and retain healthcare staff to ensure that we have a workforce of the optimum size and with the right range of skills.</p> <p>Growing the local supply of healthcare workers depends upon the availability of significant, sustained, recurrent investment in pre- and post-registration education and training. Current levels of funding are wholly inadequate and the one year funding cycle the Department has had to work under seriously constrains a proper assessment of affordability and frustrates long term investment in these areas.</p> <p>I would therefore reiterate my previously expressed view that it is essential my Department has a multi-year budget to produce a three year education and training budget plan. Restoration of the Executive is also crucial, so that the difficult, long-term decisions about the prioritisation and allocation of finance for investment in the healthcare workforce can be made.</p>		
35	AQW 3178/22- 27	Mrs Pam Cameron (DUP - South Antrim)	<p>To ask the Minister of Health (i) how he plans to rebuild confidence among General Dental Practitioners in NHS dentistry; and (ii) whether maintaining the 25 per cent Rebuilding Support Scheme enhancement to fees is considered a key way to achieve this.</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p>My Department continues to engage with the dental industry via the British Dental Association (BDA). In 2021 the Contract Reform Group was established to work with representatives from the BDA in a collaborative approach, to examine how to make improvements in the dental contract in the short and longer term to ensure that Health Service dentistry is sustainable and delivers for both patients and the profession.</p> <p>As was communicated to General Dental Practitioners by a letter issued on the 21st of September 2022, the Rebuilding Support Scheme will be extended until the end of 2022/23 with a 10% enhancement on Item of Service payments. This is further investment, projected to be a further ?2m, in a key service that has received significant support since the outset of the pandemic.</p> <p>The scheme was established specifically in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. With the impact of the pandemic significantly reducing over the past number of months and most restrictions now removed, the justification for ongoing COVID-specific support has also reduced.</p>	20/09/2022	Answered on 26/09/2022

36	AQW 3177/22- 27	Mrs Pam Cameron (DUP - South Antrim)	<p>To ask the Minister of Health, given soaring dental inflation, the impact of COVID and a 40 per cent reduction in dental earnings, whether a cost of service investigation by a third party provider is required for health service dentistry.</p> <p>Answer: The current focus of my Department is to rebuild General Dental Services so that the immediate oral health needs of the public are met. In parallel the Dental Contract Reform Group is exploring options to ensure that Health Service dentistry is sustainable and delivers for both patients and the profession. Undertaking a Cost of Service Review will be an important part of any new approach.</p>	20/09/2022	Answered on 26/09/2022
37	AQW 3169/22- 27	Miss Jemma Dolan (SF - Fermanagh and South Tyrone)	<p>To ask the Minister of Health what advice is given to NHS patients who have been removed from their own Dentist as non paying patients and there are no other dentists prepared to take them on.</p>	20/09/2022	To be answered by 05/10/2022
38	AQW 3168/22- 27	Miss Jemma Dolan (SF - Fermanagh and South Tyrone)	<p>To ask the Minister of Health what plans he has to deal with a reducing number of Dental practices prepared to treat NHS patients.</p> <p>Answer: Efforts to address these pressures have focussed on increasing capacity within practices, with the Rebuilding Support Scheme (RSS), recently extended until the end of 2022/23, offering enhanced payments in return for increasing levels of activity. In addition to the ?76m provided via the Financial Support Scheme in the last two financial years, the RSS is projected to invest an additional ?6.9m by the end of 2022/23. A condition of the RSS is that patients are treated on the basis of clinical need, rather than registration status. This helps to ensure that those in most need of treatment are prioritised.</p> <p>To provide treatment for patients with urgent dental need, Emergency Dental Clinics are also available at weekends and Bank Holidays where the patient will be triaged remotely and appropriate advice given or treatment arranged.</p> <p>In addition, my Department intends to commence a scheme on 3 October 2022 throughout Northern Ireland to provide access to non-registered patients who are experiencing an emergency or urgent dental condition. Support being provided to dental practices will continue to remain under ongoing review.</p>	20/09/2022	Answered on 28/09/2022
39	AQW 3031/22- 27	Mrs Pam Cameron (DUP - South Antrim)	<p>To ask the Minister of Health for his assessment of the future for NHS dentistry, in particular finding the additional investment required to deliver a new General Dental Services contract at a time of constrained public finances and urgent pressures, including increasing expenses for dental practitioners.</p> <p>Answer:</p>	08/09/2022	Answered on 23/09/2022

			<p>Prior to the arrival of COVID-19, General Dental Services (GDS) in Northern Ireland faced many challenges, however access to treatment was good and the general oral health of the population was improving. The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on delivery of dental services was significant, indeed the effects are still being felt, even as restrictions have been lifted. To help sustain GDS during the Covid-19 pandemic, my Department provided ?76m in financial support to independent General Dental Practitioners over the last 2 years.</p> <p>Further funding was committed for the first half of 2022/23 to support dental practices, with dental fees being enhanced by 25% as part of the Rebuilding Support Scheme (RSS), to reflect the ongoing pandemic pressures practices are facing. This support has been extended at 10% until the end of this financial year. This investment has been supplemented by an additional ?6.5m made available to practices via Revenue Grant Schemes in 2020/21 and 2021/22.</p> <p>Additional investment will also be made in the form of the Urgent Care for Unregistered Patients Scheme and work is ongoing in relation to further investment in the registration and treatment of children.</p> <p>However investment alone will not deliver the improvements we need and that is why the Department's Dental Contract Reform Group (CRG) was established. The CRG is looking at how to make improvement in the dental contract in short and longer term to ensure that Health Service dentistry is sustainable and delivers for both patients and the profession.</p>		
40	AQW 3026/22- 27	Mrs Pam Cameron (DUP - South Antrim)	<p>To ask the Minister of Health what steps his Department is taking to address (i) the pay disparity affecting hospital dentists in Northern Ireland, including trainee pay; (ii) the absence of new Clinical Excellence Awards; and (iii) pensions mitigations.</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p>Medical and Dental pay issues are a devolved matter in Northern Ireland. Medical and Dental trainees in England have been on a different contract to those in Northern Ireland since 2016. Any change to the NI contract would be a matter for negotiation between the Department and the BMA.</p> <p>Following mediation in August 2022, the Department is now working collaboratively with the BMA to Co-design a new future Clinical Excellence Scheme.</p> <p>Work is currently underway to introduce guidance for pension flexibilities, including contribution recycling, which may help those who are negatively impacted by pension tax charges. It is hoped employers will be in a position to offer this from next year.</p> <p>There are a number of policy issues being considered at UK level looking at the impact of inflation rates and possible flexible retirement measures. Departmental officials are in regular contact with GB counterparts to ensure they are kept up to date on any possible changes.</p>	08/09/2022	Answered on 12/09/2022

41	AQW 3025/22- 27	Mrs Pam Cameron (DUP - South Antrim)	To ask the Minister of Health when his Department last carried out a Cost of Service Investigation comparing dental fees and remuneration with the costs of delivering Health Service dental care.	08/09/2022	To be answered by 26/09/2022
42	AQW 3024/22- 27	Mrs Pam Cameron (DUP - South Antrim)	To ask the Minister of Health how he will support General Dental Services in mitigating the double-digit inflation, which is causing less viable fees for NHS dentistry.	08/09/2022	To be answered by 26/09/2022
43	AQW 3023/22- 27	Mrs Pam Cameron (DUP - South Antrim)	To ask the Minister of Health whether, following a recent BBC investigation that found 90% of dental practices are not taking on new NHS adult patients and 88% are unable to take on new child patients, additional investment is needed in dentistry. Answer: The Department responded to the pressures facing dentistry, caused by the pandemic, by investing more: ?76m in support payments through 2020/21 and 2021/22. In the first half of 2022/23 the Rebuilding Support Scheme (RSS) has invested an additional ?4.1 in dental practices by paying dentists an additional 25% for dental treatments. The RSS has been extended until the end of 2022/23, enhancing payments to dentists by 10%, expected to cost an additional ?2m. Additional investment will also be made in the form of the Urgent Care for Unregistered Patients Scheme and work is ongoing in relation to further investment in the registration and treatment of children.	08/09/2022	Answered on 23/09/2022
44	AQW 2671/22- 27	Ms Claire Sugden (IND - East Londonderry)	To ask the Minister of Health (i) why, in 2021-22, (a) the number of people who have seen a dentist; and (b) the range of treatment delivered, has not returned to pre-pandemic levels; and (ii) to detail any benefits that exist for dentists treating NHS patients over private patients. Answer: Throughout much of 2021, we were seeing record levels of infection, and measures were in place in all industries and in all regions of the UK to minimise the risk of transmission. Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) measures in healthcare settings have had a significant adverse effect on activity levels, with additional Personal Protective Equipment, social distancing, pre-appointment patient screening, and fallow time after aerosol generating procedures all contributing to a lower patient throughput in General Dental Services (GDS). IPC restrictions were relaxed in January and May 2022, and this, along with the introduction of the Rebuilding Support Scheme, which rewards dentists based on activity levels, has seen an increase in activity levels from 58% to 76% of pre-pandemic levels over the last 2 months. Due to the increasing waiting times in areas for dental check-ups and treatment, there has also been an unprecedented demand for more lucrative private dental treatment, which dental practices have been keen to	01/07/2022	Answered on 20/07/2022

			<p>address. Undoubtedly too, there are ongoing concerns from practitioners regarding the existing contract, which some feel undercompensates them for the Health Service work they are undertaking. A GDS Contract Reform Group has been established to help address these concerns.</p> <p>Dentists in Northern Ireland continue to undertake a significant amount of Health Service dentistry every month. In addition to the payment for Items of Service (that makes up around 60% overall GDS spending) there are also a range of allowances available to dentists and practices, as well as a very generous pension scheme and maternity, paternity and sick pay benefits. Since the beginning of April 2022, the GDS Rebuilding Support Scheme has also been paying dentists an additional 25% on all dental treatments undertaken on Health Service patients.</p>		
45	AQW 2671/22- 27	Ms Claire Sugden (IND - East Londonderry)	<p>To ask the Minister of Health (i) why, in 2021-22, (a) the number of people who have seen a dentist; and (b) the range of treatment delivered, has not returned to pre-pandemic levels; and (ii) to detail any benefits that exist for dentists treating NHS patients over private patients.</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p>Throughout much of 2021, we were seeing record levels of infection, and measures were in place in all industries and in all regions of the UK to minimise the risk of transmission. Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) measures in healthcare settings have had a significant adverse effect on activity levels, with additional Personal Protective Equipment, social distancing, pre-appointment patient screening, and fallow time after aerosol generating procedures all contributing to a lower patient throughput in General Dental Services (GDS). IPC restrictions were relaxed in January and May 2022, and this, along with the introduction of the Rebuilding Support Scheme, which rewards dentists based on activity levels, has seen an increase in activity levels from 58% to 76% of pre-pandemic levels over the last 2 months.</p> <p>Due to the increasing waiting times in areas for dental check-ups and treatment, there has also been an unprecedented demand for more lucrative private dental treatment, which dental practices have been keen to address. Undoubtedly too, there are ongoing concerns from practitioners regarding the existing contract, which some feel undercompensates them for the Health Service work they are undertaking. A GDS Contract Reform Group has been established to help address these concerns.</p> <p>Dentists in Northern Ireland continue to undertake a significant amount of Health Service dentistry every month. In addition to the payment for Items of Service (that makes up around 60% overall GDS spending) there are also a range of allowances available to dentists and practices, as well as a very generous pension scheme and maternity, paternity and sick pay benefits. Since the beginning of April 2022, the GDS Rebuilding Support Scheme has also been paying dentists an additional 25% on all dental treatments undertaken on Health Service patients.</p>	01/07/2022	Answered on 20/07/2022

46	AQW 2588/22- 27	Mr Patsy McGlone (SDLP - Mid Ulster)	<p>To ask the Minister of Health to list the NHS dentists in Mid Ulster.</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p>Dentists who have made arrangements with the Department to provide Health Service dentistry in the Mid Ulster Local Government District are listed in the table below broken down by the dental practice that they work in. This list of dentists refers to those with an arrangement to provide Health Service dentistry at 31 March 2022, the latest National Statistics publicly available.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="600 427 1688 1342"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="600 443 958 475">Dental Practice</th> <th data-bbox="958 443 1406 475">Practice Address</th> <th data-bbox="1406 443 1688 475">Dentist Name</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="600 507 958 539">D J Kelly Dental Practice</td> <td data-bbox="958 491 1406 555">DUNGANNON HOUSE, AUGHNACLOY, BT69 6AR</td> <td data-bbox="1406 507 1688 687">D J KELLY J SPENCE Mrs FIONA NEILL Mr Ivan Martin</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="600 719 958 751">ALTMORE DENTAL PRACTICE</td> <td data-bbox="958 703 1406 767">ALTMORE DENTAL PRACTICE, DUNGANNON, BT70 1HW</td> <td data-bbox="1406 719 1688 900">Ms C WATSON Dr AARON MAJOR MISS SARAH WALLS Dr EMMA MAJOR</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="600 916 958 948">Corry Dental Care</td> <td data-bbox="958 916 1406 948">UNIT 18, MAGHERAFELT, BT45 6ED</td> <td data-bbox="1406 916 1688 1112">J T CORRY MR PEADAR QUIGG MR JAMES MCKEE Miss Deborah Bridget Tennyson</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="600 1144 958 1176">MAGHERA DENTAL CARE</td> <td data-bbox="958 1128 1406 1192">MAGHERA DENTAL CARE, MAGHERA, BT46 5EA</td> <td data-bbox="1406 1144 1688 1342">A TOHILL Mrs CATRIONA HEGARTY Dr MICHELLE AL- GHABAN</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Dental Practice	Practice Address	Dentist Name	D J Kelly Dental Practice	DUNGANNON HOUSE, AUGHNACLOY, BT69 6AR	D J KELLY J SPENCE Mrs FIONA NEILL Mr Ivan Martin	ALTMORE DENTAL PRACTICE	ALTMORE DENTAL PRACTICE, DUNGANNON, BT70 1HW	Ms C WATSON Dr AARON MAJOR MISS SARAH WALLS Dr EMMA MAJOR	Corry Dental Care	UNIT 18, MAGHERAFELT, BT45 6ED	J T CORRY MR PEADAR QUIGG MR JAMES MCKEE Miss Deborah Bridget Tennyson	MAGHERA DENTAL CARE	MAGHERA DENTAL CARE, MAGHERA, BT46 5EA	A TOHILL Mrs CATRIONA HEGARTY Dr MICHELLE AL- GHABAN	01/07/2022	Answered on 07/07/2022
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MAGHERA DENTAL CARE	MAGHERA DENTAL CARE, MAGHERA, BT46 5EA	A TOHILL Mrs CATRIONA HEGARTY Dr MICHELLE AL- GHABAN																		

				<p>Dr JOSE JOSEPH ANTHRAPER</p> <p>Mrs FRANCES MCLAUGHLIN</p> <p>Mrs JAN HAMILTON</p> <p>Miss LUCY MCGOWAN</p> <p>Miss Sarah Glass</p> <p>Ms KERRI BURKE</p>		
			<p>Spires Oral Care</p> <p>11 KIRK AVENUE, MAGHERAFELT, BT45 6BT</p>	<p>C A GORMLEY</p> <p>Miss RACHEL MULHOLLAND</p>		
			<p>Dental 32</p> <p>32 RAINEY STREET, MAGHERAFELT, BT45 5AQ</p>	<p>R A J WALLACE</p> <p>Mrs S R MCAULEY</p> <p>Dr C MCMULLAN</p> <p>Miss JOANNE DILLON</p> <p>Miss AIMEE MCERLEAN</p>		
			<p>MOY ORTHODONTIC CLINIC</p> <p>MOY ORTHODONTIC CLINIC, MOY, BT71 7SG</p>	<p>MS E MCILVANNA</p> <p>MRS JULIE COLLINS</p> <p>DR CIARA CAMPBELL</p>		
			<p>KENNEDY ORTHODONTICS</p> <p>1st Floor, 40 Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt, BT45 6EN</p>	<p>MR D KENNEDY</p> <p>MR ALEXANDER LINDSAY</p> <p>MR RALPH MERCER</p> <p>MR STEPHEN BOYD</p>		

				<p>Loughry Dental Practice UNIT 2, COOKSTOWN, BT80 9AD</p> <p>THE MOLESWORTH PLACE DENTAL PRACTICE Molesworth Street, Cookstown, BT80 8LW</p> <p>Loy Dental Care 52 LOY STREET, COOKSTOWN, BT80 8PE</p> <p>Gentle Touch Dental Studio 11 THE DIAMOND CENTRE, MAGHERAFELT, BT45 6EB</p> <p>Smyth Dental Surgery 30A FAIRHILL ROAD, COOKSTOWN, BT80 8AG</p> <p>Clogher Valley Dental Care 86 MAIN STREET, FIVEMILETOWN, BT75 0PW</p> <p>DIAMOND DENTAL CLINIC DIAMOND DENTAL CLINIC, COOKSTOWN, BT80 8DL</p>	<p>MS AINE CAMPBELL DR ADAM JEFFERS MISS SARAH JOHNSTON Miss Megan McKeown</p> <p>Mr MICHAEL MCCREA Mr LEONARD MAGUIRE Dr ALISON DAWSON</p> <p>MR P WARWICK MR Stephen R McKinstry</p> <p>R J CRAIG C GOCHER Mr ANDREW SHANNON</p> <p>D F SMYTH MR J MCHUGH MISS SHARON MILLER MR SHANE MURPHY</p> <p>Dr L MCNALLY Dr LISA MCMURRAN</p> <p>P M LENNY MISS B HERRON C MAGUIRE MR LIAM DIAMOND</p>		
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				<p>MISS OONAGH MCCLOSKEY</p> <p>Miss JANE DORAN</p> <p>Mr MARK FRIEND</p> <p>Mr DAVID MCQUILLAN</p>		
			<p>Cassidy Dental</p> <p>36 KING STREET, MAGHERAFELT, BT45 6AS</p>	<p>T R CASSIDY</p> <p>MS A MCBRIDE</p> <p>MR M SLEVIN</p> <p>Dr NUALA DEVLIN</p> <p>MR JAMES PARISH</p>		
			<p>McCann Dental Practice</p> <p>88 LOWER SCOTCH STREET, DUNGANNON, BT70 1BJ</p>	<p>Miss CAITRIONA CODY</p> <p>Miss GRACE CONWAY</p> <p>DR EAMONN MCCANN</p> <p>Miss EMMA BROWN</p>		
			<p>Alexander Dental Practice</p> <p>40 NORTHLAND ROW, DUNGANNON, BT71 6AP</p>	<p>E O'BRIEN</p> <p>P MCGEARY</p> <p>D GORDON</p> <p>Mrs Victoria Smith</p> <p>MISS CAOIMHE QUINN</p>		
			<p>Bupa Dental Care Dungannon</p> <p>42 CIRCULAR ROAD, DUNGANNON, BT71 6BE</p>	<p>P A DORAN</p> <p>LAUREN WYLIE</p> <p>Miss LAUREN BRADLEY</p> <p>SARAH MARTELLI</p>		

				<p>Coalisland Dental</p> <p>24 BARRACK STREET, COALISLAND, BT71 4LS</p> <p>Slevin Dental</p> <p>12 LOY STREET, COOKSTOWN, BT80 8PE</p> <p>CLOGHER VALLEY DENTAL CARE</p> <p>25 MAIN STREET, CLOGHER, BT76 0AA</p> <p>Pauline Taylor Dental Surgery</p> <p>34 HIGH STREET, MAGHERAFELT, BT45 7AA</p> <p>Southern Cross Dental</p> <p>28 DUNGANNON STREET, DUNGANNON, BT71 7SH</p>	<p>ORAN BAIRD</p> <p>Mr MICHAEL MARLOW</p> <p>Mr ROGER HADDEN</p> <p>Dr ELLEN MCIVOR</p> <p>Miss ELIZABETH DEVLIN</p> <p>MISS H MCKAVANAGH</p> <p>J KELLY</p> <p>Ms CARA CHRISTIE</p> <p>MR M SLEVIN</p> <p>UNA DEVLIN</p> <p>Miss JOHANNA MCAULEY</p> <p>R GRAHAM</p> <p>Dr Jacqueline Loughran</p> <p>MRS JILL HASTINGS</p> <p>MRS TANYA MCMINN</p> <p>MR JUSTIN BLAKE</p> <p>MRS JOANNA FRAZER- BROWN</p> <p>D REANEY</p> <p>A M GOODING</p> <p>SA EDDIE</p> <p>MS E DOUGHERTY</p>		
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			<p>Devlin Dental Practice</p> <p>55 THOMAS STREET, DUNGANNON, BT70 1HW</p> <p>Miss MEGAN MCMULLAN</p> <p>O DEVLIN</p> <p>C MCALEER</p> <p>Miss CLAIRE MCCAUGHEY</p> <p>Mr RORY KIERNAN</p> <p>Miss KATHRYN MCALLISTER</p>		
47	AQW 2510/22- 27	Ms Claire Sugden (IND - East Londonderry)	<p>To ask the Minister of Health (i) whether dentists are, on average, dedicating a smaller proportion of their time to seeing and treating NHS patients than in previous years; and (ii) to detail any figures collected or held by his Department regarding the proportion of their time dentists spend treating NHS patients as opposed to private patients.</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p>In recent months general dental activity levels have increased from around 55-60% or pre-pandemic levels to 76% as a result of new payment approach and the reducing impact of the pandemic. Specific information however is not collected by Business Service Organisation or the Department on the length of time dentists spend providing HSC or private treatment and is therefore not available.</p> <p>NHS Digital however carry out a biennial Dental Working Patterns Survey of primary care NHS/Health Service dentists in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The survey is based on a sample of all dentists. Information on average weekly hours, weeks of annual leave, the division of time between NHS/Health Service and private dentistry, and clinical and non-clinical work, is presented as well as measures of motivation and morale. The latest Dentists' Working Patterns, Motivation and Morale report for 2018/19 and 2019/20 can be found at the following link: https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/dental-working-hours/2018-19-and-2019-20-working-patterns-motivation-and-morale</p>	30/06/2022	Answered on 07/07/2022
48	AQW 2502/22- 27	Mr Phillip Brett (DUP - North Belfast)	<p>To ask the Minister of Health to list the dental practices in North Belfast that currently have spaces available for NHS patients. [Priority Written]</p> <p>Answer:</p>	30/06/2022	Answered on 07/07/2022

My Department does not specifically fund or commission Health Service places. General Dental Practitioners are independent contractors and are not contractually obliged to register new patients under the current contract. Information is not held in relation to dental practices that are currently accepting new patients. The General Dental Practices in the North Belfast Assembly Area, at 31st March 2022, the latest National Statistics publicly available, who have made arrangements with the Department to provide Health Service dentistry is detailed in the table below.

Practice1, 2	Practice Address
Bank Dental Practice	231 SHANKILL ROAD, BELFAST, BT13 1FQ
Diane McAlister Dental Surgeons	37 BALLYGOMARTIN ROAD, BELFAST, BT13 3LA
J D Turk	46 CLIFTONVILLE ROAD, BELFAST, BT14 6JY
Clear Dental	462 OLDPARK ROAD, BELFAST, BT14 6QG
Glen Dental Surgery	254 BALLYSILLAN ROAD, BELFAST, BT14 6RA
Diane McAlister Dental Surgeons	210 BALLYSILLAN ROAD, BELFAST, BT14 7QS
Maguire Dental Surgery	208 ANTRIM ROAD, BELFAST, BT15 2AN
Cavity Corner Dental Surgery	236 ANTRIM ROAD, BELFAST, BT15 2AN
ANTRIM ROAD DENTAL CARE	ANTRIM ROAD DENTAL CARE, BELFAST, BT15 2GZ
Antrim Road Dental Clinic	385 ANTRIM ROAD, BELFAST, BT15 3BG
Total Orthodontics Belfast	521 ANTRIM ROAD, BELFAST, BT15 3BS
Dr Farquharson Dental Surgery	543 ANTRIM ROAD, BELFAST, BT15 3BU
Loughside Dental Practice	214 SHORE ROAD, BELFAST, BT15 3QB
Fortwilliam Specialist Dental Clinic	354 ANTRIM ROAD, BELFAST, BT15 5AE
Cavehill Dental Care	165/167 CAVEHILL ROAD, BELFAST, BT15 5BP
Michael Gillen Dental Surgery	305 CAVEHILL ROAD, BELFAST, BT15 5EY
Fortwilliam Dental Practice	440 ANTRIM ROAD, BELFAST, BT15 5GB
Donnelly - The Gate Lodge Dentist	554 ANTRIM ROAD, BELFAST, BT15 5GJ
McCambridge - The Gate Lodge Dentist	554 ANTRIM ROAD, BELFAST, BT15 5GJ
Glengormley Dental	Glengormley Dental Unit 1-3, Glengormley, BT36 5EQ
The Portland Practice	2 PORTLAND AVENUE, GLENGORMLEY, BT36 5EY

			<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AB Dental Surgery</td> <td>20 PORTLAND AVENUE, GLENGORMLEY, BT36 5EY</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Diane McAlister Dental Surgeons</td> <td>138 WHITEWELL ROAD, BELFAST, BT36 7EP</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MA Irwin Dental</td> <td>5 HIGHTOWN ROAD, GLENGORMLEY, BT36 7TZ</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tumelty Dental Practice</td> <td>22 HIGHTOWN ROAD, GLENGORMLEY, BT36 7UA</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Whiteabbey Dental Practice</td> <td>138 DOAGH ROAD, NEWTOWNABBEY, BT37 9QR</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bupa Dental Care Newtownabbey</td> <td>292 SHORE ROAD, NEWTOWNABBEY, BT37 9RW</td> </tr> </table> <p>1 Active dental surgeries at the 31st March 2022. 2 List may include a number of Orthodontic and Specialist Practices. These practices do not typically have registered patient lists, with patients instead normally seen on referral from a GDS dental practice.</p>	AB Dental Surgery	20 PORTLAND AVENUE, GLENGORMLEY, BT36 5EY	Diane McAlister Dental Surgeons	138 WHITEWELL ROAD, BELFAST, BT36 7EP	MA Irwin Dental	5 HIGHTOWN ROAD, GLENGORMLEY, BT36 7TZ	Tumelty Dental Practice	22 HIGHTOWN ROAD, GLENGORMLEY, BT36 7UA	Whiteabbey Dental Practice	138 DOAGH ROAD, NEWTOWNABBEY, BT37 9QR	Bupa Dental Care Newtownabbey	292 SHORE ROAD, NEWTOWNABBEY, BT37 9RW		
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49	AQW 2480/22- 27	Ms Claire Sugden (IND - East Londonderry)	<p>To ask the Minister of Health to detail (i) the total number of hours that dentists spent providing NHS treatment in each of the last five years; and (ii) these figures as a percentage of the total time dentists spent treating all patients.</p> <p>Answer: Information is not collected by Business Services Organisation on the length of time dentists spend providing Health & Social Care treatment and is therefore not available. Business Services Organisation does not hold any information in relation to private treatments that are carried out by dental practices. NHS Digital however carry out a biennial Dental Working Patterns Survey of primary care NHS/Health Service dentists in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The survey is based on a sample of all dentists. Information on average weekly hours, weeks of annual leave, the division of time between NHS/Health Service and private dentistry, and clinical and non-clinical work, is presented as well as measures of motivation and morale. The latest Dentists' Working Patterns, Motivation and Morale report for 2018/19 and 2019/20 can be found at the following link: https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/dental-working-hours/2018-19-and-2019-20-working-patterns-motivation-and-morale</p>	30/06/2022	Answered on 07/07/2022												
50	AQW 2383/22- 27	Ms Claire Sugden (IND - East Londonderry)	<p>To ask the Minister of Health to detail the number of dental practices that have (i) stopped; and (ii) started, treating NHS patients in each of the last five years, broken down by Health and Social Care Trust.</p> <p>Answer: Between 1 April 2016 and 31 March 2022, 23 practices are no longer contracted to carry out health service dental work. <i>Table 1</i> details this information, broken down by Health and Social Care Trust. Table 1: Dental premises no longer contracted to carry out health service dental work1 between 1st April 2016 and 31st March 2022</p>	29/06/2022	Answered on 07/07/2022												

Health and Social Care Trust	Financial Year					
	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Belfast	-	-	2	2	-	1
Northern	-	2	1	2	-	1
South Eastern	2	-	-	2	-	1
Southern	1	-	1	-	2	-
Western	-	-	-	-	2	1
Total	3	2	4	6	4	4

1 Although these practices have closed, they may have merged with other practices or transferred their patient lists to other dentists.

Between 1 April 2016 and 31 March 2022, there have been 9 practices which have commenced carrying out Health Service dental work. *Table 2* details this information broken down by Health and Social Care Trust.

Table 2: Dental premises that commenced carrying out health service dental work between 1st April 2016 and 31 March 2022

Health and Social Care Trust	Financial Year					
	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Belfast	1	-	1	-	-	-
Northern	-	-	1	1	-	1
South Eastern	-	1	-	1	-	-
Southern	-	1	-	-	-	-
Western	-	-	1	-	-	-
Total	1	2	3	2	-	1