

Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP  
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care  
*Sent by email*

9 June 2022

Dear Mr Javid,

### **NHS dental contracts**

We noted that yesterday in response to questions from Duncan Baker MP on the urgent need for dental contract reform, you told the House *"it is well known how the Labour Government came up with contracts with the British Dental Association that are leading to poor outcomes for millions of people across the country"*.

On behalf of tens of thousands of colleagues working in NHS general dental services in England we hope you will correct the record on this matter.

The current discredited contract, which has limited access for the public and decimated the NHS workforce, was in fact *imposed* on this profession. The British Dental Association was never prepared to sign up to a system that puts government targets ahead of patient care.

In 2008 the Health Committee rightly dubbed this contract 'unfit for purpose', but no government in the last 14 years has been ready and willing to turn the page.

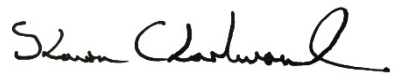
We warned back in 2006 that *"it is clear that even those dentists who are signing the contract are desperately concerned about the future."* Our profound concerns, then as now, have been utterly vindicated. With 3,000 dentists having left the NHS in England since lockdown, COVID has accelerated an exodus that was already in motion, with millions of patients paying the price.

We trust you will now make a short personal statement to the House correcting your statement which wrongly suggests the BDA played any role in designing the current dysfunctional system.

Clearly, we all want to see the best possible outcome achieved for our patients and urgent and meaningful reform of the dental contract – as well as appropriate funding – are necessary to achieving it. As we await the commencement of formal negotiations on a new contractual model, we trust you will ensure officials have the latitude and the resources needed to finally end this crisis and start a new chapter in the history of NHS dentistry.



Eddie Crouch  
Chair, British Dental Association



Shawn Charlwood  
Chair, BDA General Dental Practice Committee

cc. Maria Caulfield MP, DHSC, Sara Hurley, Chief Dental Officer for England, NHSE