



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1557 and P-06-1551
Ein cyf/Our ref JMHSC/03179/25 and JMHSC/03125/25

Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair
Petitions committee
petitions@senedd.wales

05 January 2026

Dear Carolyn,

I am replying to letters from the committee in relation to two separate but related petitions, which both concern the new dental contract, which will be introduced in April 2026:

Petition P-06-1557: Introduce guaranteed NHS dental treatment for the population of Wales

Petition P-06-1551: Stop the Welsh Government's Harmful Changes to NHS Dentistry

The new dental contract – the first major reform of the general dental services contract in 20 years – is a significant change from the current units of dental activity (UDA) contract. It will mean that people will be seen on the basis of their health needs and not automatically every six months. It will help to improve access to NHS dentistry for the public and will be fair to dentists.

We have developed the contract with the NHS and the dental profession's representatives and consulted on it with the public. The public consultation received 6,427 responses making it one of the most, if not the most, responded to consultations since devolution.

As a result of the feedback from the consultation, we have made a number of important changes, including ensure people with very good oral health are able to maintain continuity with their dental practice.

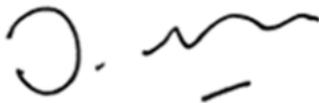
I made a [statement in the Senedd](#) about the new contract and the changes we are making following the recent public consultation. This includes information about developing a high needs pathway for people who may need additional support. Vulnerable people who are unable to access general dental services will continue to be seen by the community dental service.

We know it can be difficult for people to access NHS dental care if they do not have an ongoing relationship with an NHS dentist. The Dental Access Portal (DAP) was developed to provide health boards with a clear understanding of need in their area and enable them to manage the allocation of people to dental practices as capacity becomes available. It also removes the need for people to have to ring around a lot of practices to find an NHS dentist in their area. When registering with the DAP, people can indicate how far they are willing or able to travel to see an NHS dentist. People can register their details on the Dental Access Portal by following this link: [Dental Access Portal - Digital Health and Care Wales](#)

Dental practices are taking on new NHS patients across Wales, since April 2022, when we introduced a variation to the current UDA contract, almost 530,000 new patients have received a full course of treatment; and 214,000 appointments have been provided for new patients to have urgent care.

The new dental contract for Wales will improve access to NHS dentistry for everyone as health needs and prevention are at the heart of the new system.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Miles', with a stylized flourish.

Jeremy Miles AS/MS

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care