**MORE ON DENTISTRY**

**05 May 2020**

Volume 675 HANSARD

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**HOUSE OF COMMONS**

[Alec Shelbrooke (Elmet and Rothwell) (Con)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/search/MemberContributions?house=Commons&memberId=3997)

What support is the Government providing to Dental Practices during the Covid-19 outbreak? [902194]

[The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health and Social Care (Jo Churchill)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/search/MemberContributions?house=Commons&memberId=4380)

NHS England and NHS Improvement have published detailed guidance setting out the support for NHS dentistry during the pandemic. To minimise the spread of infection, routine dentistry is currently suspended. NHS practices are providing telephone advice and triage at urgent dental centres to patients with urgent needs. NHS Dentists will receive their usual remuneration in full, or in part if they do part-NHS, part-private work. Dentists can also seek help via all the Treasury means for lost income.

[Alec Shelbrooke](https://hansard.parliament.uk/search/MemberContributions?house=Commons&memberId=3997)

My constituents in Elmet and Rothwell have reported difficulties in obtaining emergency dental care in Leeds. Will the Minister detail what actions her Department is taking when this specific issue comes up in, say, Leeds so that patients can access emergency care during the lockdown?

[Jo Churchill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/search/MemberContributions?house=Commons&memberId=4380)

Of course. As of the week ending 30 April, there were two urgent dental care centres in the Leeds area to provide urgent dental treatment and care for patients on referral either from the patient’s own dentist or from NHS 111. As with all urgent dental care centres, there is also a triage service that will give people advice, antibiotics or painkillers and then refer them through if clinical work is required. There are 308 urgent dental centres open across the country. I regularly talk to the chief dental officer and to the British Dental Association about the needs and requirements in the profession so that we can care for patients in the best way.

**APPG on Oral Health and Dentistry [All Party Parliamentary Group]** -- this existed until very recently ( Nov 2019 ) and was supposed to be reformed for 2020 but it hasn't, due to the election, then Covid and as there is now no normal Parliament.

However, some members of the Lords were dentists in their previous life. B/ess Parkes, Lord Colwyn etc.

APPGs always disappear during a recess and have to be re-registered to re-appear and continue.

**Former Members**

| **Name** | **Role** | **Party** | **Departed on** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| [Yasmin Qureshi](https://www.parallelparliament.co.uk/mp/Yasmin%20_Qureshi) | Vice Chair | Labour (Bolton South East) | 5 Nov 2019 |
| Paula Sherriff | Vice Chair | Labour | 5 Nov 2019 |
| Baroness Thornton | Vice Chair | Labour | 5 Nov 2019 |
| Baroness Walmsley | Vice Chair | Liberal Democrat | 5 Nov 2019 |
| [Sir Paul Beresford](https://www.parallelparliament.co.uk/mp/Alexander_Beresford) | Chair & Registered Contact | Conservative (Mole Valley) | 5 Nov 2019 |
| Sir Kevin Barron | Vice Chair | Labour | 5 Nov 2019 |
| Lord Colwyn | Vice Chair | Conservative | 5 Nov 2019 |
| [Judith Cummins](https://www.parallelparliament.co.uk/mp/Judith_Cummins) | Vice Chair | Labour (Bradford South) | 5 Nov 2019 |
| Kevin Barron | Vice Chair | Labour (Rother Valley) | 12 Oct 2016 |

Formed - 29 Sep 2015  
Last updated - 5 Nov 2019

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**HOUSE OF LORDS**

NHS: Dentistry Services 25 July 2019

Volume 799

[Baroness Gardner of Parkes](https://hansard.parliament.uk/search/MemberContributions?house=Lords&memberId=3596)

To move that this House takes note of the availability of National Health Service dentistry services.

[Baroness Gardner of Parkes (Con)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/search/MemberContributions?house=Lords&memberId=3596)

My Lords, I declare my interests as a retired dentist and a national health pensioner. It is good that we have this opportunity, on the last sitting day before the Recess, to debate the present situation. The Table Office produced the wording about the “availability” of NHS dentistry. Sadly, a more accurate title would refer to the lack of availability, as whole areas of the country have no dentists offering NHS treatment.

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NHS dentists struggle to see even 55% of the population in a one-year period. Lack of access to emergency dentistry is often seen as contributing to overcrowding in hospital accident and emergency departments. The British Dental Association claims that 380,000 patients a year with dental problems are approaching their general practitioner—what? We know that in England dentists are now paid in units of dental activity—UDAs; I learned about this last time, and I spoke to one of my colleagues. Typical values for these units are £20 to £35. They are paid at one unit for a band 1 course of treatment, three units for a band 2 course of treatment, and 12 units for a band 3 course of treatment. For many treatments, the rate of pay is below the cost of providing the treatment to a modern standard and, as a result, many dentists will refer patients for any unprofitable services. I raise this, and I hope the Minister can give more details, because I do not quite understand it. -------

------ [Lord Colwyn (Con)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/search/MemberContributions?house=Lords&memberId=3394)

My Lords, like my noble friend Lady Gardner, I declare my interest as a fully retired dental surgeon with more than 40 years’ experience. I am a fellow of the British Dental Association and ​vice-president of the British Fluoridation Society. I thank my noble friend for securing this debate. I also welcome my noble friend Lady Barran, who joins a select group of Peers who understand dental politics. It will only get better, I am sure.

Noble Lords will know that I take every possible opportunity to raise the issues of oral health and dentistry in the House, as these important subjects are all too often overlooked. I am pleased to have another chance to highlight the growing problem of access to NHS dental services today, even though so few colleagues are able to be here on the very last day of the parliamentary Session—and the hottest.