

Navin Shah, AM
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London
SE1 2AA

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10 JUN 2008
SECRETARIAT

10 June 2008

Dear Navin Shah, AM,

Re: 'Teething Problems – A Review of NHS Dental Care in London'

I am writing in response to a letter I received from Joanne McCartney AM, the previous Chair of the GLA Health and Public Services Committee on 4 February 2008, regarding their report into dental care in London.

I would like to thank the Committee for sending me a copy of the report 'teething problems – a review of NHS dental care in London' and to commend the committee on producing another well balanced report.

I understand that the Committee would like feedback on recommendations 5 to 8 of this report which aim to influence Department of Health policy. As you may know the House of Commons Health Committee are also holding an inquiry into NHS dental and orthodontic services. The inquiry is examining both General Dental Services (GDS) and Personal Dental Services (PDS). The Committee's inquiry is examining the principles underlying the reforms to dental services, which took effect in April 2006, and the extent to which the changes brought about have been consistent with these principles.

For further information including the Terms of Reference please see:

http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/health_committee/hcpn151007.cfm

It would be prudent therefore for me to await the outcome of this process and any subsequent policy changes before responding in more detail. However the Department of Health does consult with a Key Stakeholder group on this issue and further discussions could be conducted via this group. I have included the link to this group below for your information.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Aboutus/Chiefprofessionalofficers/Chiefdentalofficer/DH_063829

Please note: this group was formally the Implementation Review Group and was set up to monitor the impact of the NHS dental reforms.

Yours sincerely,

London Strategic Health Authority

Chair: Dr George Greener CBE

Chief Executive: Ruth Carnall CBE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Tanner'. The signature is stylized with a large 'S' and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dr Simon Tanner
Regional Director of Public Health for London
Health Adviser to the Greater London Authority