

Cyflwynwyd yr ymateb i ymgynghoriad y [Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol](#) ar [Deintyddiaeth](#)

This response was submitted to the [Health and Social Care Committee](#) consultation on [Dentistry](#)

D 01

Ymateb gan: | Response from: Mrs Carol Richardson

good morning

I have read some of your research on the provision of dental services across Wales. I live in North Wales where for the past 6-8 years there has been declining NHS dental services in this area. Not to a level where it is virtually non-existent.

When we came to live permanently in the area 6 years ago we looked for an NHS dentist. We were informed by the Health Authority there were several dentists within 6 to 20 miles. However on review the majority told us they were not signing on new NHS patients. There was a service in a neighbouring town but on review on the public's comments on this provision the feedback was very poor.

At the time the only option was to sign on with a Private dental provider which also provided NHS services. We took up the private service whilst we waited on their NHS list for inclusion. The service then transferred to BUPA and we enquired again as to if we could transfer to NHS and again we were told we could stay on the waiting list but they had no vacancies. This situation has continued through the pandemic and to the present day. We have only really been able to access treatment until very recently for emergency services. As far as I know after 6 years we are still on the waiting list.

Some months ago I was contacted by the health authority to say a dentist some 15 miles away would see us and perform any urgent treatment but could not put us on their NHS list as it was full.

We are fortunate that although we are of pensionable age we can manage to afford to go privately should the need arise. However after paying into the NHS by our taxes for over 50 years we do feel really let down by the NHS dental provision which is very lacking in North Wales.

You only have to walk around and talk to people to see that many now have very poor oral health and many will face old age with a distinct lack of teeth. I feel that we have gone severely backwards and become a third world country in the level of dental care provided and may I say also in the community health provision here in Gwynedd.

Sorry to be so negative but there is no rosey picture out there to promote.

Mrs Carol Richardson