

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](#)

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Ymateb gan: | Response from: Coleg Brenhinol y Meddygon | Royal
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Dentistry

RCP Cymru Wales response

Name of organisation: Royal College of Physicians (RCP) Cymru Wales
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The Royal College of Physicians (RCP) welcomes this Senedd health and social care committee inquiry into dentistry and its focus on tackling health inequalities. Below is our response. Where you would find more detailed information helpful, we are happy to provide further written or oral evidence.

The impact of health inequalities

In July 2022, 50 organisations working across health and social care endorsed the recent Welsh NHS Confederation and Royal College of Physicians paper, [Mind the gap: What's stopping change? The cost-of-living crisis and the rise in inequalities in Wales](#). This calls for a cross-government approach to tackling health inequalities by consolidating commitments on inequality in one delivery plan to improve accountability, introducing health impact assessment regulations as a priority, providing more detailed guidance on implementation to local delivery bodies and improving access to prevention programmes, especially for those living in poverty.

Addressing the factors that cause ill-health and disease in the first place should be a central focus for the Welsh Government. This is why we need to bring all commitments, targets and measures on inequalities and poverty into one overarching delivery plan so that we can ensure that everyone is working to the same end goal. We urge the Senedd health and social care committee to consider recommending that the Welsh government develop a cross-government plan to tackle inequalities and poverty. This should include actions and targets to improve access to dentistry services for people across Wales.

Educating, improving, influencing

Through our work with patients and doctors, the Royal College of Physicians (RCP) is working to achieve real change across the health and care sector in Wales. We represent 40,000 physicians and clinicians worldwide – educating, improving and influencing for better health and care. Over 1,500 members in Wales work in hospitals and the community across 30 different clinical specialties, diagnosing and treating millions of patients with a huge range of medical conditions. We campaign for improvements to healthcare, medical education and public health.