

New President for BADN



Debra Worthington is the new President of the British Association of Dental Nurses (BADN), the UK's professional association for dental nurses. Debra took the reins from former President Jacqui Elsdon at the BADN's AGM in November.

Debra has been a dental nurse for 43 years and is currently Head of Dental Service for the North East sector of Greater Manchester with 80 staff working across the region. She has recently been a member of the Advancing Dental Care review group and has received outstanding contribution awards from the British Orthodontic Society and the British Dental Association. ✧

Dentistry inquiry offers chance to bring service back from the brink

The Health and Social Care Committee has launched an inquiry into dentistry following a survey that showed 90% of practices across the UK were not accepting new adult NHS patients.

MPs will consider to what extent the current NHS dental contract disincentivises dentists from taking on new patients. They will look at what incentives can be offered by the NHS to recruit and retain dental professionals and explore the role of training. They will also explore the possible impact of changes to be introduced in April to make new Integrated Care Systems and Integrated Care Boards responsible for the provision of dental services.

The British Dental Association (BDA) says the new inquiry into access to NHS dentistry may represent a last best hope to save the service and stress that real scrutiny is now essential to draw a line under the government's poverty of ambition on reform.

Ministers recently announced minor tweaks to the discredited NHS dental contract fuelling the current crisis, without a penny of new investment attached. The system continues to put government targets ahead of patient care, and funds services for barely half the population.

Shawn Charlwood, Chair of the BDA's General Dental Practice Committee, said: 'This inquiry offers hope to millions of patients left with no options. NHS dentistry faces a man-made crisis, the net result of a decade of choices made in Westminster.'

'To date, Ministers have simply tinkered at the margins. A failed, underfunded system demands real scrutiny and real reform.'

The Health and Social Care Committee invites written submissions addressing the points in their call for evidence: <https://committees.parliament.uk/work/7140/nhs-dentistry/>. Evidence should be submitted by Wednesday 25 January 2023 and should be no more than 3,000 words. ✧

The *BDJ*'s top ten articles 2022

As of 13 December 2022, here are the top ten most accessed *BDJ* articles of 2022 (Table 1). The most accessed article was 'The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on oral health inequalities and access to oral healthcare in England' with over 6,000 downloads.

Four Letters to the Editor appear in the top ten list; one Editorial; and five Clinical papers.

Table 1 Top ten most accessed *BDJ* articles of 2022

Position	Title	Link
1	The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on oral health inequalities and access to oral healthcare in England	https://www.nature.com/articles/s41415-021-3718-0
2	Black staining: an overview for the general dental practitioner	https://www.nature.com/articles/s41415-022-4345-0
3	Moaning Minnies	https://www.nature.com/articles/s41415-022-3894-6
4	Oral surgery wait times in NHS secondary dental care in England: a five-year review	https://www.nature.com/articles/s41415-022-4138-5
5	Botox hidden dangers	https://www.nature.com/articles/s41415-022-4006-3
6	Denture cleanliness and hygiene: an overview	https://www.nature.com/articles/s41415-022-4397-1
7	Dentistry in the metaverse	https://www.nature.com/articles/s41415-022-4003-6
8	The current dental school applicant: an overview of the admission process for UK dental schools and the sociodemographic status of applicants	https://www.nature.com/articles/s41415-022-3927-1
9	Dental education in the metaverse	https://www.nature.com/articles/s41415-022-3990-7
10	Dental public health breakthrough	https://www.nature.com/articles/s41415-022-4150-9