



Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
Sent by email

1 September 2020

Dear Chancellor,

Financial sustainability of dental practices

As representatives of the dental profession we are writing to bring to your attention this [report on the financial sustainability of dental practices](#) and to seek an urgent response.

This document, based on feedback from numerous industry and official stakeholders, outlines in detail specific risks to this service, which have yet to receive an adequate response from government.

Patient access to dentistry remains limited, and we face a real risk of deep health inequalities widening. The measured view of this paper is that a vital healthcare service – now operating at a fraction of its former capacity – requires urgent support.

While short term assistance has been offered to NHS contractors, private providers – who make up the majority of dentists given that most practices operate as a ‘mixed’ economy – have largely had to go it alone.

From the extension of business rates relief to ensuring necessary funding is in place to support services for vulnerable populations, we urge the Treasury to take heed, and offer a clear plan to keep dentistry afloat.

We are conscious that since the onset of the pandemic we – and many MPs – have received mere boilerplate responses from your departmental colleagues regarding the support offered to dentistry.

While we have certainly welcomed much of the wider package of support, such as access to credit and the furlough scheme, to date to the Treasury has not demonstrated any awareness of the unique challenges facing this service. We hope that this report will address this gap in understanding.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin Woodrow', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Martin Woodrow
Chief Executive
British Dental Association

cc: Jo Churchill MP, Department for Health and Social Care