



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Simon Clarke MP  
Chief Secretary to the Treasury  
HM Treasury  
1 Horse Guards Road  
London  
SW1A 2HQ

26<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Chief Secretary,

**NHS dentistry funding**

We are writing following the joint letter the Chancellor received from the Chair of Healthwatch England Sir Robert Francis QC and the Chair of the British Dental Association Eddie Crouch last week to echo their concerns about the current state and the future of NHS dentistry.

Dentistry is now the number one issue raised with Healthwatch and our own mailbags can attest that lack of access to dental services is a problem felt in every corner of the country. Over 30 million NHS dental appointments have been lost due to the pandemic, with Healthwatch England and the BDA warning that this eye-watering backlog is not just causing huge difficulties in patients accessing timely care, but will deepen health inequalities too.

In past years, NHS dental budgets have failed to keep up with inflation and population growth. We understand none of the additional £5.4 billion announced last month to help tackle COVID-19 backlogs will be used to support our badly hit dental services. As NHS dentistry faces this unprecedented challenge, it is crucial that resources are in place to ensure the recovery, underpin promised reform, and guarantee the long-term sustainability of the service our constituents rely on.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Sir Peter Bottomley MP

Yvette Cooper MP

Debbie Abrahams MP  
Peter Aldous MP  
Apsana Begum MP  
Paula Barker MP  
Paul Blomfield MP  
Ben Bradshaw MP  
Sarah Champion MP  
Daisy Cooper MP  
Rosie Cooper MP

Judith Cummins MP  
Philip Davies MP  
Marsha de Cordova MP  
Peter Dowd MP  
Rosie Duffield MP  
Tim Farron MP  
Andrew Gwynne MP  
Emma Hardy MP  
Harriet Harman MP

Wera Hobhouse MP  
Dame Diana Johnson MP  
Kim Johnson MP  
Darren Jones MP  
Barbara Keeley MP  
Kim Leadbeater MP  
Clive Lewis MP  
Rebecca Long-Bailey MP  
Caroline Lucas MP  
Steve McCabe MP  
Andy McDonald MP  
John McDonnell MP

Esther McVey MP  
Layla Moran MP  
Anne Marie Morris MP  
Rachael Maskell MP  
Dan Poulter MP  
Virendra Sharma MP  
Derek Twigg MP  
David Warburton MP  
Mohammad Yasin MP  
Valerie Vaz MP  
Martin Vickers MP

CC Sajid Javid MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care  
Maria Caulfield MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary for Patient Safety and Primary Care  
Jeremy Hunt MP, Chair of the Health and Social Care Committee