



Newsletter: March 2009

The Health Secretary Alan Johnson has announced that Professor Jimmy Steele of Newcastle University is currently chairing an independent review of national health service dentistry in England. The review will consider how the Department can respond to the conclusions and recommendations the Health Select Committee (HSC) recently made, following their inquiry into dental services. The system of banded patient charges is one of the issues the HSC raised and that Professor Steele and his team will consider, taking views from a wide range of stakeholders. Professor Steele will publish his findings later in the spring, and the Department will then respond to his recommendations.

I attended a dinner at the invitation of Professor Steele with other stakeholders and we discussed a range of issues, of course including the effect the contract is having on complex dental treatment and dental laboratories. If you would like to comment direct to him he has sent me a link where you can contact him:

'Can I please encourage you to promote the mailbox and webpage through your own organisation's communications channels to help ensure that this review reaches as wide an audience as possible? The more feedback we are able to gather through key stakeholders such as your organisation, the more accurate picture we will get of the issues affecting NHS dentistry.'

The web-page can be found at
and the email address is dentistry.review@dh.gsi.gov.uk.

The effect on many laboratories is still a significant downturn in the volume of work which I can see little reason to change in the near future.

In January I became the first recipient of the 'Fellowship of the DLA' award which, since it comes from my peers is a great honour for me to receive.

I hope many of you took the opportunity to try some of our new products, E-Max and the denture gum staining. I would be very pleased with all feedback and hope they will be a useful choice for some patients.

Thank you for support and the work which we especially appreciate at the moment.



Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'D. Smith'.

David Smith