



Ein cyf/Our ref VG/05661/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair, Petitions Committee

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19 October 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 12 August regarding the petition P-05-1014 to give dental practices and their staff key worker status. Please accept my apologies for the delay in replying to you.

During the height of the pandemic Welsh Government considered critical workers in the context of accessing education and childcare provision for their children, thereby enabling them to continue working. Dentists and their teams were not specifically named but the list did include "support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector."

With schools returning and childcare already able to care for a wider cohort of children there is no need to prioritise access to limited provision and critical workers can access these services as needed. We are, however, looking at the arrangements for childcare and education in the event of local or national lockdowns in future. If there were to be a change to the wider list of critical workers we would consider how best to accommodate that.

I understand the Chief Dental Officer has been in contact with the Independent Dental Association Wales to provide some assurance that following the lessons learnt by the profession during the pandemic we would not be taking a step back from the current Amber phase of recovery for the delivery of dental services.

Yours sincerely,

Vaughan Gething AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services

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We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.