

Responding to further questions:

1. *The answer states there's nearly double the trained dentists now than there was 31 years ago which implies there's been no trouble with recruiting and training, which seems at odds with other evidence (like calls to expand local training capacity), is that your conclusion?*

The numbers of trained dentists in the UK has increased in the last 31 years. The number of dentists that take on all/some NHS work has decreased. There are some areas where this is even worse, this does include North Norfolk, where rurality is also a factor. It wasn't the opinion of those present that local training would solve the issue as the newly trained dentists would not be serving the NHS long term due to conditions of employment. They would train, fulfil commitments and leave. There was also discussion about foreign dentists, but they too leave the NHS due to the contract, often choosing to settle in another country.

2. *The solution seems to be changing the national contract to improve the financial viability of providing NHS dental services; do you know what the ICB and NLDC have been doing to bring this about, especially, given the £400m underspend last year?*

A challenge nationally would work towards a solution, however it has been challenged without effect over many years to no effect. Without some major changes in contract, dentists would not be willing to risk their livelihood to serve under the NHS, no matter how much they desire to.

3. *Do you know what NHOSC plans to do next to progress a national or local solution?*

I will await the minutes to respond to this question.