



To:
Graham Hills, KMN Ltd

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Date: 27 November 2009

Dear Graham

Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting – 8 January 2010

At the meeting of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 8 January 2010 the Committee would like to examine various aspects of dentistry.

The Committee would be grateful if you could provide them with information on this topic to assist their enquiry. The information we would be interested in receiving from you is as follows:

1. From the information received by LINK, have any trends emerged about the problems faced by people in Kent in accessing dental services, and any specific areas of the county where issues exist?
2. From the information received by LINK, have any trends emerged about the problems faced by people in Kent in the quality of the dental services provided?
3. Is the LINK involved in, or planning to get involved in, any work relating to dentistry in Kent?

A list of the key questions which we have asked NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent and NHS West Kent is attached to this letter. This is for your information.

It would be greatly appreciated if you could also provide a short executive summary to introduce your report.

We would like to receive written evidence on this issue prior to the meeting in order to assist their investigation. We would like to receive any written submissions for the January meeting by **midday, Friday 18 December 2009.**

Geoff Wild LL.B, Dip.LG, Solicitor
Diretor of Law & Governance

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DEPARTMENT



If when sending any written documentation to me you could let me know who will be attending the meeting I would be most grateful.

The meeting itself will take place at Sessions House on Friday, 8 January 2010 and will begin at 10 O'clock in the morning.

If you would like to discuss further the contents of the written submission, please contact Tristan Godfrey, Research Officer to the HOSC, on 01622 694196 or send an email to tristan.godfrey@kent.gov.uk. I attach a set of submission guidelines that may be helpful to you.

Kind regards

Paul D. Wickenden

Paul Wickenden
Overview, Scrutiny & Localism Manager
Democratic Services

Geoff Wild LL.B, Dip.LG, Solicitor
Diretor of Law & Governance

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DEPARTMENT



Appendix – Questions for HOSC Meeting, 8 January 2010

1. Please provide some key facts about the levels and types of dentistry activity in your PCT area, including:
 - a. Numbers of dentists providing NHS dental treatment, and the percentages working under the different types of contract;
 - b. Numbers of dentists providing NHS dental services to children but not adults;
 - c. Information on the levels of dental activity (Units of Dental Activity) and Courses of Treatment, broken down into patient type (i.e. adults and children); and
 - d. Total number of patients seen by an NHS dentist, and what this is as a proportion of the resident population.

(For comparison purposes, could the above information be provided for 2007/8 and 2008/9 along with the most current information you have)
2. How much is spent on commissioning dental services and how do dentists receive remuneration for providing services?
3. How are dentists remunerated for carrying out preventive work?
4. Does the PCT provider arm provide any dental services directly?
5. What information can be provided on the state of children's oral health in your PCT, and how this has changed over time?
6. Who provides out of hours dental services and how do patients access these?
7. What is the patient pathway for those with advanced oral health needs (such as cancer, and/or courses of treatment involving referral to a consultant)?
8. Are there any particular geographical areas where there are issues around commissioning adequate dental provision?
9. Are there any particular times of year where there are issues around commissioning adequate dental provision?
10. What are the challenges faced by PCTs in commissioning adequate dental provision and what plans does the PCT have to develop dental services in the future?
11. What powers of prescription do dentists have and how much prescribing is carried out by them?
12. Please provide the following information relating to customer services (including information from PALs):
 - a. How many enquiries are received each quarter relating to dental services and what trends can be identified regarding the nature of these enquiries?
 - b. How many complaints/compliments/comments have been received about accessing dental services?

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- c. How many complaints/compliments/comments have been received about the quality of dental services?
- d. How has information from customer services about dentistry informed service development?

Geoff Wild LL.B, Dip.LG, Solicitor
Diretor of Law & Governance

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

