



CATHERINE WEST MP

Member of Parliament for Hornsey and Wood Green

The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
Department of Health and Social Care
Ministerial Correspondence and Public Enquiries Unit
39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU

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Dear Sajid,

NHS Dentistry and Orthodontics Provision in Haringey

In recent weeks I have received a growing number of emails from constituents who are struggling to access NHS dental care in Haringey. There is a particular problem with orthodontic treatment, where I understand waiting lists are now between 12-18 months to even receive a first assessment. This is exacerbated by the fact that only three dentists in Haringey borough are contracted to provide NHS orthodontic treatment. This rationing of care meant that NHS orthodontists locally went into the pandemic with significant waiting lists which have now only grown.

Please can you urgently advise what action your Government is taking to tackle this crisis and address the huge backlog in accessing vital NHS Dentistry that has built up during the pandemic? 17,336 children in Haringey missed out on their regular NHS dental appointment in 2020 and oral decay in young children in the borough is now well above the national average.

Please can you further advise what support you will be providing for the installation of effective ventilation equipment to enable NHS dentists to see more patients? Administrations in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland have already committed funding for this purpose.

Specifically, in relation to orthodontics in Haringey, please can you advise what consideration is being given to increasing the number of NHS orthodontic contracts in the borough to ensure that local residents receive the prompt care they require?

It is crucial that action is taken as I am concerned that waiting lists are only increasing as, despite the backlog, important Infection control measures mean that dentists are still only able to see a fraction of their usual patients.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine West
Member of Parliament for Hornsey & Wood Green