

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to advise the dental board of my strong opposition to the latest proposal to change the scope of practice of dental auxiliaries.

To me it seems that this latest proposal has not undergone any consultation with actual working dentists. We may as well, under this new proposal, not bother training any more dentists in this country as it would seem from this proposal that auxiliaries would be practicing dentistry, but with a lot less training, skill and knowledge. As such the standard of dental care would certainly drop dramatically.

Such a proposal is almost offensive to dentists (and myself as a dental specialist) as it devalues the years of training and the knowledge, that we have gone to such length to acquire, and which aim to uphold the standard of dental care in this country.

Dental professionals in city areas should be given more incentives to work in rural areas, rather than putting money into training more auxiliaries and hoping that they will go and "practice dentistry" in country areas. In the end it will be the people who access dental services that will suffer.

I do not support these proposed changes and neither do my family, whom are not even dentally trained. Their concern is that they, and the general public will not be able to differentiate between who is a dentist and who is not.

There are many reasons why the proposed changes are flawed, however I hope I have been able to highlight just a few and I hope that my colleagues do the same.

Thanks  
Nigel Johnson