



Our ref: WQ92454

Sian Gwenllian MS  
Member of the Senedd for Arfon

[Sian.Gwenllian@senedd.wales](mailto:Sian.Gwenllian@senedd.wales)

7 May 2024

Dear Sian,

I am writing in response to your written question (WQ92454) How many patients are registered as NHS patients with the Dental Academy in Bangor, and what is the total number of patients registered with the Dental Academy in Bangor?

I thought it would be helpful to explain that while we continue to talk about people being “registered with a dentist”, in reality, the act of registration ended when the 2006 contract was introduced.

The 2006 contract, which introduced Units of Dental Activity (UDA), set out that once a person had received treatment there was no obligation for the practice to see them again, except for remedying any treatments that fail within two months of them being provided. However, in practice, NHS dentists have recalled patients to whom they have previously provided care for routine check-ups and treatment, where necessary.

Since April 2022, we have introduced a variation to the NHS dental contract to move away from UDA and towards prevention and needs-based care. More than 80% of general dental services have adopted this variation of the contract, which has also enabled them to see new patients – these are people who have not seen an NHS dentist in the last four financial years.

Instead of “registering” patients, NHS dentists, working under the variation arrangements, are remunerated for having an ongoing relationship with patients and providing them with regular treatment, based on their oral health needs.

In terms of activity at the Dental Academy in Bangor, since opening in September 2022, more than 3,000 people have received a full course of NHS treatment.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. E. Morgan'.

**Eluned Morgan AS/MS**

Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol