

## **FIFE COUNCIL**

**16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023**

SNP Amendment to Motion 2

Crisis in Scottish Dentistry –

“Fife Council notes that access to NHS Dentistry in the area has become significantly harder in recent years for residents of Fife due to the impact of Brexit and covid”.

However, it is noted that per 10,000 people, Scotland has the highest number of dentists in any of the other countries in the UK

Scotland - 6.2 dentists per 10,000 people

Northern Ireland 6.0 “

Wales 4.8 “

England 4.4 “

It is also noted that in 2021 there were 3,703 dentists working for the NHS in Scotland. An increase of 29 from 2019.

In Fife the number of Dentists in 2019 were 258, in 2020 260, and in 2021 256.

There are 70 registered NHS practices in Fife.

There are also Thirteen Public Dental Service locations in Fife. Five of these offer a short course of treatment after the initial visit. These are services that anyone can access in an emergency regardless of whether or not you are registered with a dentist and will be seen within 24 hours.

It is therefore untrue that Fifers will be left in pain causing further oral and dental health issues.

Data from NHS England and NHS Wales shows more than 2,500 dentists (up to 8% of the workforce stopped treating NHS patients last year).

Council requests the Council leader writes to the Scottish Health Secretary to seek assurance that dentistry in Fife and Scotland will not only remain the best resourced in the UK but will endeavour to increase performance and funding and overtake the issues created by Brexit and Covid.

Proposer - Cllr Rosemary Liewald

Seconder – Cllr Sam Steele