



Our ref: WQ89278

Darren Millar MS  
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Dear Darren,

Thank you for your recent written question asking me how many NHS dental contracts in Wales have been terminated in each of the past 3 years, by local health board.

The table below shows the number of contracts terminated in each of the past 3 years by local health board.

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
<b>Betsi Cadwaladr</b>	2	5	4
<b>Hywel Dda</b>	1	0	6
<b>Swansea Bay</b>	1	0	0
<b>Cardiff &amp; Vale</b>	4	2	3
<b>Cwm Taf Morgannwg</b>	3	2	2
<b>Aneurin Bevan</b>	2	0	2
<b>Powys</b>	0	1	2

It is always disappointing when a dentist decides to reduce or end their NHS commitment. It is important to highlight that when this happens the funding for the lost provision remains with the Health Board in order for it to replace the level of NHS dental services. Replacement services are established in a number of ways and this is not always a like for like replacement. For example, additional activity can be commissioned from existing practices or investment can be made in the community dental service.

The vast majority of these contracts have either already been re-procured or are out to tender with confirmed interest. Unfortunately, in these scenarios re-procurement takes time which understandably results in a gap in provision. While procurement is ongoing Health Boards will utilise funding to commission additional activity from other practices or add capacity to the community dental service to provide urgent and emergency care for displaced patients.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Contract returns also sometimes provide an opportunity. For example, in North Wales the new Academy has in part been able to be developed because contracts have been returned. In Ebbw Vale a large contract return has enabled the development of a brand-new dental practice that will provide NHS care only; and, in Mid-Wales, the health board has used returned funding to employ a dental therapist who is working through children on the waiting list for routine care.

Yours sincerely,

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

**Eluned Morgan AS/MS**

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services