

Myth & Reality

The facts & the fiction on NHS dentistry in 2023

Shawn Charlwood | GDPC Chair's Report to LDC Officials' Day

NHS DENTISTRY ISN'T WORKING.

WAITING ROOM



NHS DENTISTRY IS WORKING.

WAITING ROOM

A year in review

- **NHS dentistry has not bounced back.**
- Gap between Government's stated goals and its ambitions has never been bigger.
- Future of service still hangs in the balance

Myth

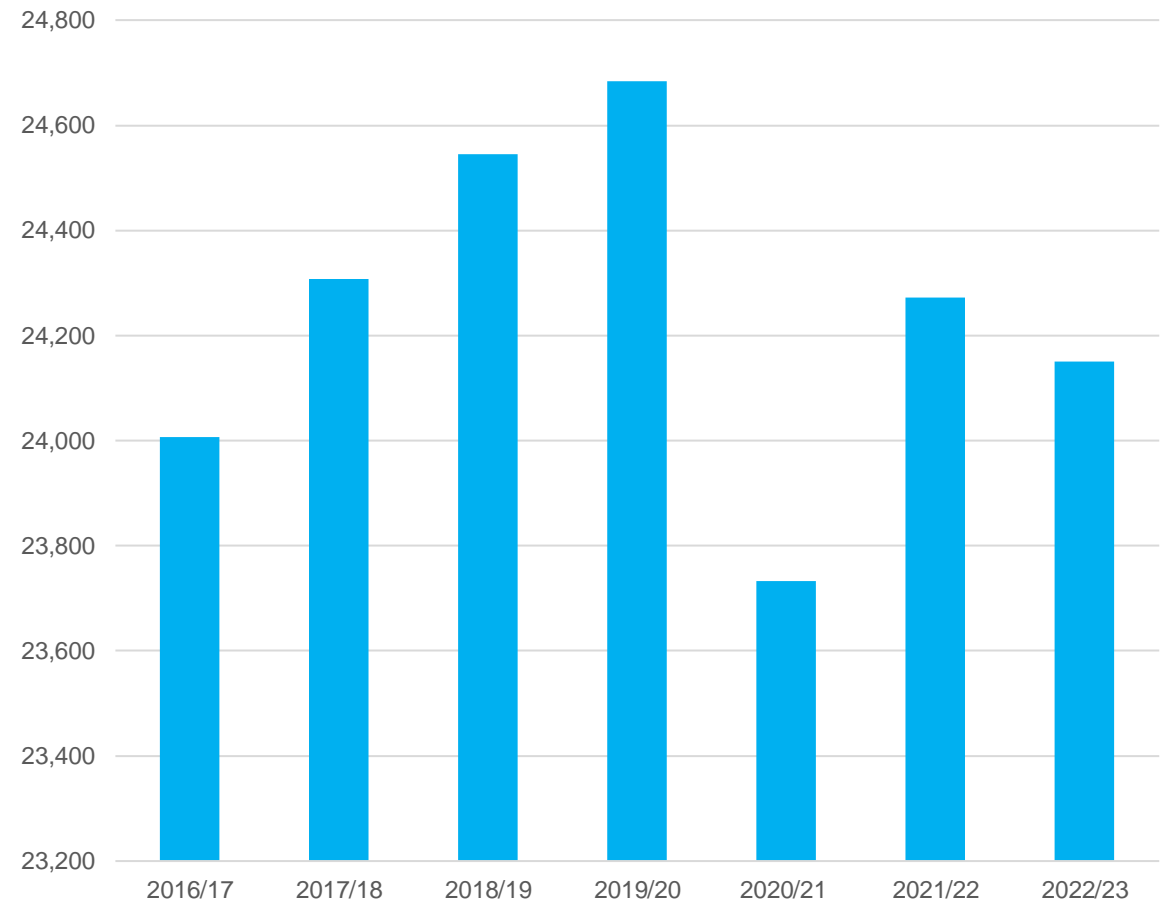
“There are 500 more dentists in the NHS today.”

Rishi Sunak, 15 March 2023

Reality

- **The Exodus continues**
- Real movement going untracked in official data.

NHS Dentists (England)



- The access crisis is a workforce crisis.
- Problems remain almost universal.



Myth

“The reformed dental contract is helping improve NHS access for patients”

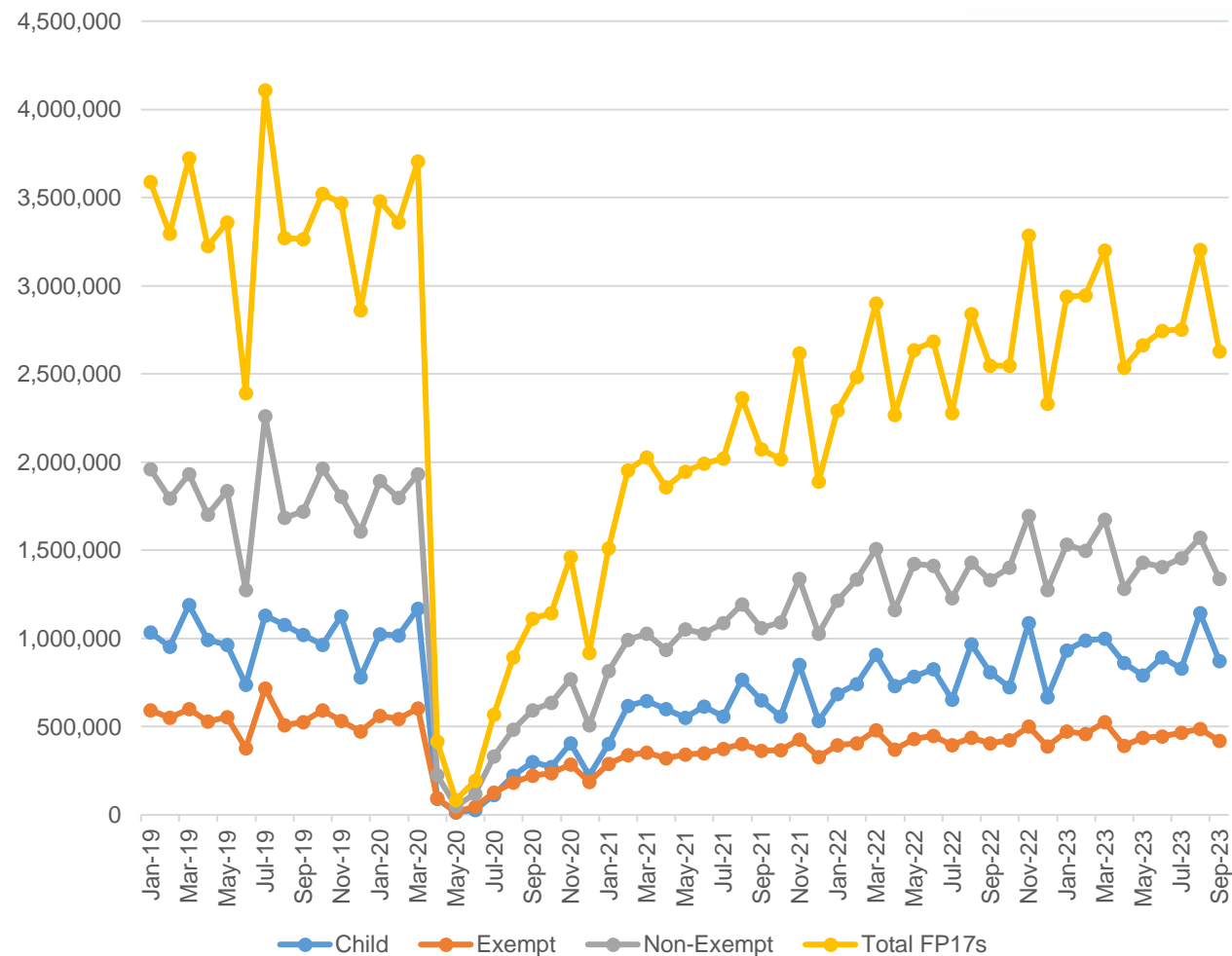
Rishi Sunak, October 2023

- We had a look at Government's data when we were pulling together our evidence for HSC.
- In 2023 all that's changed is those numbers have grown.



Courses of Treatment (England)

- We've looked across primary and secondary care.
- No part of NHS has lost this much capacity.
- Lightyears from normal.



Myth

“We do want everyone who needs one to be able to access an NHS dentist - absolutely”

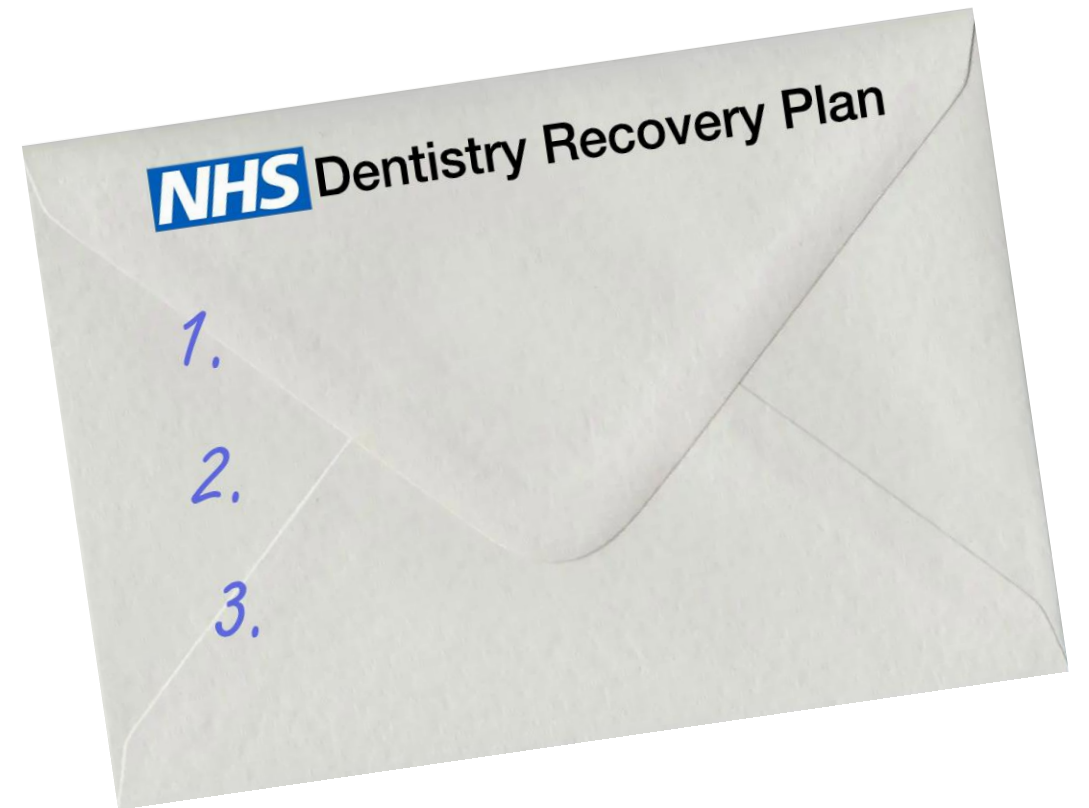
Neil O'Brien, April 2023

Reality

- **We are not seeing corresponding commitment to meet these objectives.**
- Recap on where we are with reform.

Recovery plan parked....

**If found please return to:
Minister for Dentistry
39 Victoria St, London
SW1H 0EU**



Workforce plan

- 40% increase in dentists in training
- But where are the teachers, the trainers, the commissioned activity and the budget.
- **Why train more people who don't want to work in the NHS?**



Tie ins

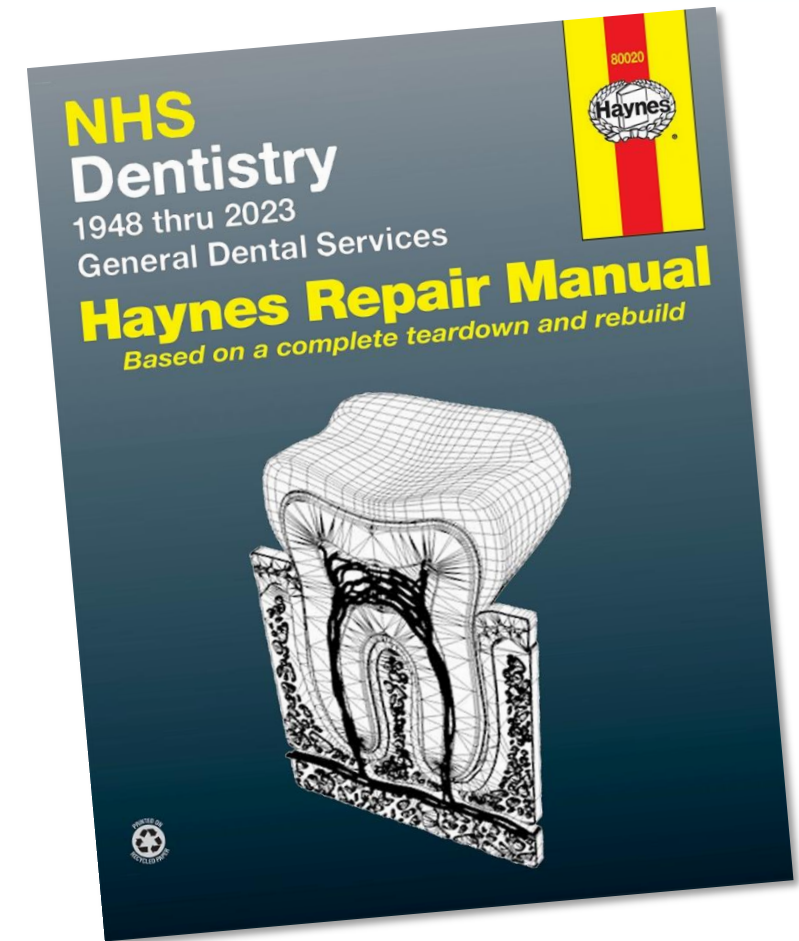
- Rather than making NHS dentistry a viable career path, turning it a place you serve time.
- Young dentists expressing pragmatic preferences on debt forgiveness.



Health and Social Care Committee

Utterly damning. Back clear break from UDA.


- Committee has offer manual on how to save NHS dentistry.
- Move to patient-centred, prevention-focused model.




Health and Social Care Committee

- We're still waiting for government to respond.
- The clock is ticking.

NHS dentistry >

Report:  Published
On 14 July 2023

Govt.
response:  Overdue
Since 14 September 2023

Opened 7 December 2022

Further tweaks?

NHSE has identified the following areas for further tweaks to the current system:

- Urgent care
- New patients
- High needs patients
- Workforce
- Prevention

Progress beyond slow. Incapable of meeting stated ambitions.



Myth

NHS dentists now have “more funding making sure people can get the treatment they need.”

Rishi Sunak, 11 January 2023

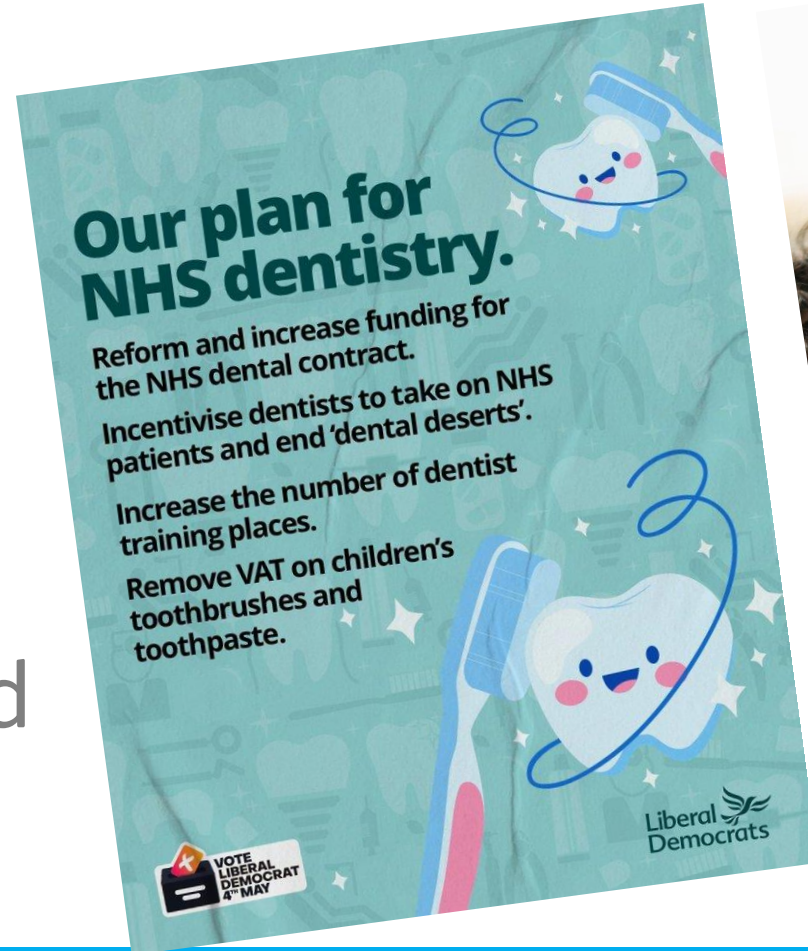
Funding

- **The core issue.**
NHS dentistry seems to be more a public spending concern than a public health concern.



The road to the next election

- We're working with all major Opposition parties on developing commitments – on prevention and contract.



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WAITING ROOM

ILLIONS

the bridge
since 2011

