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DUC  
ORG

**UNIVERSITY  
of  
GLASGOW**

25<sup>th</sup> February 2004.

Dear Mr Gray

**Re: Response to Modernising NHS Dental Services in Scotland**

6.2 Extent and Nature of NHS Dental Services

Specialist Services

- There are no Specialists in Paediatric Dentistry working in either practice or the Community Service in Grampian, Ayr and Dumfries. Para 6.2 refers to Orthodontics and Surgical Dentistry as Specialist Services in the Community. With the care index of 5 year olds in Scotland being as low as 6-7% in some areas there is an urgent need to train more Specialists in Paediatric Dentistry who would then be employed as Specialists within the Community Dental Service.
- 'Should the 'public health role' of CDS be kept separate from the 'family health' role of dentistry in the community'? Greater use could be made of PCD's in dental inspections to free up Dentists for a greater clinical role.

6.3 The Delivery of NHS Dental Services

- There should be an expansion of Dental Therapists within the CDS with a greater access to the under 5's in Nurseries, Mother and Baby Clinics, and Community Clinics to try and address the prevention and early treatment of caries.
- The provision of treatment for children with dental decay in the GDS is not working. The care index for 5 year olds is as low as 6-7% in some areas of Scotland and that of 12year olds only 50%. Such figures are clearly unsatisfactory for a developed country. A service dedicated to the dental care of children from birth through to leaving school would mean that it would be less likely for a child to 'fall between' the current services. A young population who have received appropriate care should take forward into adulthood a greater appreciation of the importance of oral health in relation to general health.

Yours sincerely

*Richard Welbury*  
Professor Richard Welbury