

# ***Morgannwg Local Dental Committee***

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27th March 2013

Ms Alex Howells  
Chief Operating Officer  
ABM University Health Board  
One Talbot Gateway  
Baglan Energy Park  
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Port Talbot  
SA12 7BR

Dear Ms Howells

## ***Restorative Dentistry Services***

At a recent LDC meeting the issue of the potential loss of restorative resources following the retirement of John Collis was discussed.

The LDC understands the financial pressures on the Health Board but it is of the opinion that loss of any restorative resources would lead to additional financial pressures not less as the quality of the service deteriorates, and demographic changes impact.

Restorative dentistry is a small specialty and small changes in workforce can have a huge impact on services, training and education. Furthermore, as the recently published National Oral Health Action Plan highlighted, there will be a continued and increased demand for this specialty. There is also concern that any reduction in resources is counter to the advice of the Health Board's own advisory groups and as such puts into question the strategic work of these bodies and some of the proposed developments such as Foundation Training and Dentists with Enhanced Skills. There will inevitably be access issues with additional pressures on already long non urgent waiting lists.

In light of our concerns we would welcome reassurances that there will be no reduction in this vital service.

Yours sincerely,

**Rhian Paul  
Chair, Morgannwg LDC**

cc Mr Paul Stauber, Director of Planning, ABM UHB  
Dr David Thomas, Chief Dental Officer, Welsh Government  
Mr Phillip Williams, Chief Officer, ABMU CHC