



**HOUSE OF COMMONS**  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Ms Jennnifer Howells  
Regional Director  
South West House  
Blackbrook Park Avenue  
Taunton  
Somerset  
TA1 2PX

Dear Jennifer,

**Re: Access to dental services across Cornwall**

From a young age we are taught the importance of having good dental hygiene and taking care of your teeth. This invariably involves regular check-ups with your local NHS dentist from a young age right through to your older years.

Unfortunately, as you are aware many of my constituents and indeed the rest of Cornwall face considerable difficulties in accessing local NHS dental services. I recognise that historically this has been a difficult issue for Cornwall, but in recent years the problem has exacerbated. June 2018 saw 18,591 patients on the waiting list for a place at a NHS dentist. Of that number, only 1,122 patients were actually provided with a place at a NHS Dental Practice in the County

I regularly receive cases from constituents who have been unable to get a place at their local NHS dental surgery or who have been waiting for a year or in some cases even longer for treatment. I realise that there is work constantly being undertaken to improve access to dental services, but this does not appear to be filtering through to my constituents. I would be most grateful if we could arrange a time to discuss the current situation and what more can be done to help reduce the number of people on waiting lists.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "George Eustice".

**George Eustice MP**  
cc. Matt Hancock, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care