

From the Acting Chief Dental Officer  
Mr Donncha O'Carolan

Castle Buildings  
Stormont Estate  
Belfast BT4 3SQ



Department of  
**Health, Social Services  
and Public Safety**

[www.dhsspsni.gov.uk](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk)

AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta  
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MÁNNYSTRIE O

**Poustie, Resydènter Heisin  
an Fowk Siccar**

Date: 27 November 2009

Dear Consultee,

### **Consultation on *Minimum Standards for Dental Care and Treatment***

I have enclosed the proposed *Minimum Standards for Dental Care and Treatment*. I would like your views on these new Standards that have been developed by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety.

The Standards focus on local dental services, and describe what you can expect as a result of using them. The standards are addressed to the users of the service, and those they may represent. We are attempting to address individuality of care, and the dignity that expectation brings, when visiting a dentist in Northern Ireland.

The standards are targeted at patients, the profession and regulators; they also cover both health service and private dental care. With almost a million courses of dental treatment undertaken per year it is important that the standards are presented in a format and language that are readily understood by patients, yet still are relevant to the profession and regulators.

I enclose a consultation response pro-forma to help you set out your views. If you have any questions about this consultation exercise, or if you would like to request paper copies, you should contact Liam McGuckin (028) 90 520212, [liam.mcguckin@dhsspsni.gov.uk](mailto:liam.mcguckin@dhsspsni.gov.uk).

The Standards consultation document and this response pro-forma are available online at <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/dental/dental-pubs.htm>.

I look forward to receiving your response which should be returned by **19 February 2010**.

Yours faithfully,

**Mr Donncha O'Carolan**  
Acting Chief Dental Officer



## Consultation on Minimum Standards for Dental Care and Treatment RESPONSE DOCUMENT

Before responding to this consultation please take note of the Freedom of Information requirements in Appendix 1 at the end of this questionnaire.

Responses should be sent to:

Dental Standards Consultation  
Room D4.18  
Castle Buildings  
Stormont,  
BELFAST, BT4 3SQ

**Please reply by 19 February 2010**

I am responding as an individual

I am responding on behalf of an organisation  Please tick **ONE**

**Please PRINT or TYPE all information CLEARLY in black ink**

Name:

Job title:

Organisation:

Address:

  
  

e-mail address:

Date:

## Standard 1 - Choosing your dental service

Do you agree with the standards set for choosing your dental service?

YES

NO

Please tick **ONE**

If you answered NO to this question please outline the reasons for your answer:

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## Standard 2 - Before your appointment

Do you agree with the standards set for before your appointment?

YES

NO

Please tick **ONE**

If you answered NO to this question please outline the reasons for your answer:

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## Standard 3 - Your visits

Do you agree with the standards set for your visits?

YES

NO

Please tick **ONE**

If you answered NO to this question please outline the reasons for your answer:

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## Standard 4 - Assessing your needs

Do you agree with the standards set for assessing your needs?  YES  
Please tick **ONE**  NO

If you answered NO to this question please outline the reasons for your answer:

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## Standard 5 - Deciding and agreeing your care and treatment

Do you agree with the standards set for deciding and agreeing your care and treatment?  YES  
Please tick **ONE**  NO

If you answered NO to this question please outline the reasons for your answer:

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## Standard 6 - Receiving your care and treatment

Do you agree with the standards set for receiving your care and treatment?  YES  
Please tick **ONE**  NO

If you answered NO to this question please outline the reasons for your answer:

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## Standard 7 - Ongoing care

Do you agree with the standards set for ongoing care?

YES

Please tick **ONE**  NO

If you answered NO to this question please outline the reasons for your answer:

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## Standard 8 - The quality of your care and treatment

Do you agree with the standards set for the quality of your care and treatment?

YES

Please tick **ONE**  NO

If you answered NO to this question please outline the reasons for your answer:

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## Standard 9 - Expressing your views

Do you agree with the standards set for expressing your views?

YES

Please tick **ONE**  NO

If you answered NO to this question please outline the reasons for your answer:

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## Standard 10 - Confidentiality and information about you

Do you agree with the standards set for confidentiality and information about you?

YES

NO

Please tick **ONE**

If you answered NO to this question please outline the reasons for your answer:

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## Standard 11 - The dental team and service management

Do you agree with the standards set for the dental team and service management?

YES

NO

Please tick **ONE**

If you answered NO to this question please outline the reasons for your answer:

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## Standard 12 - Medical and other emergencies

Do you agree with the standards set for medical and other emergencies?

YES

NO

Please tick **ONE**

If you answered NO to this question please outline the reasons for your answer:

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### Standard 13 - Control of infection

Do you agree with the standards set for control of infection?

YES

Please tick **ONE**  NO

If you answered NO to this question please outline the reasons for your answer:

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### Standard 14 - Your care environment

Do you agree with the standards set for your care environment?

YES

Please tick **ONE**  NO

If you answered NO to this question please outline the reasons for your answer:

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### Standard 15 - Children, young people and vulnerable adults

Do you agree with the standards set for children, young people and vulnerable adults?

YES

Please tick **ONE**  NO

If you answered NO to this question please outline the reasons for your answer:

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## Human Rights and Equality Implications

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 requires Departments in carrying out their functions relating to Northern Ireland to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity:

- between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation;
- between men and women generally;
- between person with a disability and persons without; and
- between persons with dependants and persons without.

In addition, without prejudice to the above obligation, Departments should also, in carrying out their functions relating to Northern Ireland, have due regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group. Departments also have a statutory duty to ensure that their decisions and actions are compatible with the European Convention on Human Rights and to act in accordance with these rights.

The Department is now screening these Standards as part of the screening process. We have conducted an initial screening and concluded that these Standards do not need to be subjected to a full equality impact assessment.

You may, however, wish to give us your opinions below.

**Are the actions which are set out in these Standards likely to have an adverse impact on any group of people in terms of the nine equality groups?**

YES

NO

Please tick **ONE**

If you answered YES to this question please state which group(s) and the reasons why:

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**Are you aware of any indication or evidence, qualitative or quantitative, that the actions in these Standards may have an adverse impact on equality of opportunity or good relations?**

YES

NO

Please tick **ONE**

If you answered YES to this question please state the reasons why and suggest how these might be mitigated.

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**Do these Standards afford an opportunity to promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations?**

YES

NO

Please tick **ONE**

If you answered YES to this question please state how:

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**Are there any aspects of these Standards where potential human rights violations may occur?**

YES

NO

Please tick **ONE**

If you answered YES to this question please state how these violations may occur:

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**GENERAL COMMENTS**

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Thank you for your comments. Please return this form by **19 February 2010** to:

**Dental Standards Consultation  
Room D4.18  
Castle Buildings  
Stormont,  
BELFAST, BT4 3SQ**

## Appendix 1

### FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – CONFIDENTIALITY OF CONSULTATIONS

The Department will publish a summary of responses following completion of the consultation process. Your response, and all other responses to the consultation, may be disclosed on request. The Department can only refuse to disclose information in exceptional circumstances. **Before** you submit your response, please read the paragraphs below on the confidentiality of consultations and they will give you guidance on the legal position about any information given by you in response to this consultation.

The Freedom of Information Act gives the public a right of access to any information held by a public authority, namely, the Department in this case. This right of access to information includes information provided in response to a consultation. The Department cannot automatically consider as confidential information supplied to it in response to a consultation.

However, it does have the responsibility to decide whether any information provided by you in response to this consultation, including information about your identity should be made public or be treated as confidential. If you do not wish information about your identity to be made public please include an explanation in your response.

This means that information provided by you in response to the consultation is unlikely to be treated as confidential, except in very particular circumstances. The Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs' Code of Practice on the Freedom of Information Act provides that:

- The Department should only accept information from third parties in confidence if it is necessary to obtain that information in connection with the exercise of any of the Department's functions and it would not otherwise be provided
- The Department should not agree to hold information received from third parties "in confidence" which is not confidential in nature acceptance by the Department of confidentiality provisions must be for good reasons, capable of being justified to the Information Commissioner.

For further information about confidentiality of responses please contact the Information Commissioner's Office (or see web site at: <http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk/>).