

Dr. Justin Brophy
Chair
Forum of Irish Postgraduate Medical Training Bodies
Frederick House
19 South Frederick Street
Dublin 2

September 25th 2019

Dear Dr. Brophy,

I write you as Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry, RCSI in your capacity as Chair of the Forum of Irish Postgraduate Medical Training to advise you and the Forum of recent developments related to postgraduate dental training.

You may be aware that there was a recent publication by the Department of Health "Smile agus Sláinte" detailing the new National Oral Health policy.

The FoDRCSI welcomes this first publication of its kind in this area but wishes to raise particular concerns which we believe will act as significant barriers to its delivery.

We are concerned that the policy fails to deal in any substantial way with the issue of mandatory foundation training for newly qualified dentists. Currently dentists are not bound to undertake foundation (intern) training unlike our medical peers (and dental peers in the UK) under existing legislation.

In addition, the policy does not address the issue of mandatory CPD. Currently under existing legislation, dentists are not bound to undertake CPD unlike our medical peers (and dental peers in the UK and most of Europe).

Lastly, the policy does not address the issue of the absence of government-funded specialist training. Under current legislation, it does not recognise any dental specialities outside of Oral Surgery and Orthodontics. Furthermore, it does not address the lack of recognition under current legislation, of dental consultant training in these various specialities.

These issues in isolation would represent major barriers to the delivery of safe dental healthcare in Ireland but taken together represent an extremely dangerous divergence from our medical peers and in the opinion of FoDRCSI represent an existential risk to the future of dentistry in Ireland.

The FoDRCSI believe these issues must be addressed on an urgent basis in order that the dental workforce who are meant to deliver this policy are in a position to do so in a safe, effective and efficient, manner. As a first step, it would be our opinion that legislation change should be enacted with immediate effect, which will in turn lay the foundation to the changes required.

The Faculty would like to express its gratitude for you continuing to accept its participation at the Forum and I am sure that our representative, Mr. Ken Halpenny, would be in a position to address any questions that you or the committee members may have on this matter.

Finally, I would respectfully request that the Forum expresses its concern in the strongest possible manner to the Minister for Health and to the Chief Dental Officer, Dr. Dymphna Kavanagh.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. John Marley
Dean
Faculty of Dentistry, RCSI