



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr Michael Mew
4 Craven Mews
London
SW11 5PW

21st September 2010

Dear Dr Mew

Further to my letter of 11th August, please find enclosed a copy of the reply that I have received from [REDACTED] Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State with responsibility for Dentistry.

I hope you find the Minister's comments helpful.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Member of Parliament for Battersea, Balham & Wandsworth

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8 SEP. 2010

Thank you for your letter of 11 August enclosing correspondence from your constituent Mr Michael Mew of 4 Craven Mews, London SW11 5PW about orthotropic therapy. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area.

I recognise the strength of Mr Mew's commitment to orthotropic therapy, but he should be aware that neither the specialist body, the British Orthodontic Society, nor the General Dental Council have been persuaded of the effectiveness of orthotropics.

The usual course by which innovative medical and dental treatments are tested is through randomised control trials comparing the innovative treatment with established good practice. Most dental research is carried out by university dental schools and I would strongly advise Mr Mew to ask a dental school if it would be prepared to design a research project. There are a number of sources of research funding, including programmes run by the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR), with which all the dental schools will be familiar.

As Mr Mew may be aware, the goal of the NIHR is to create a health research system in which the NHS supports outstanding individuals, working in world class facilities, conducting leading edge research focused on the needs of patients and the public.

I hope this reply is helpful.

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