

Minister for Public Health  
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Sir Paul Beresford MP  
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*Dear Paul*

Thank you for your letter of 11 January 2009 to Nicola Sturgeon MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing about teeth bleaching. I am replying as I have portfolio responsibility for NHS dentistry.

As you are aware, there can be health consequences of tooth whitening and all whitening procedures constitute the practice of dentistry as defined in the provisions of section 37 of the Dentists Act 1984 and may therefore only be carried out by an appropriately qualified GDC registrant.

I hope this information is helpful.

*Best wishes,  
Shona*

**SHONA ROBISON**