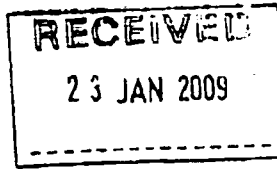


Edwina Hart AM MBE
Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaothau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services

Our ref: EH/00094/09
Your ref:



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
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21 January 2009

Dear Sir Paul

Thank you for your letter of 9 January 2009 about tooth bleaching.

The Welsh Assembly Government is responsible for implementing policy concerning the provision and delivery of NHS dentistry and for the monitoring of the delivery of NHS dental services by practitioners commissioned by Local Health Boards in Wales. Cosmetic treatments are not generally available on the NHS.

I concur with the view taken by the General Dental Council (GDC), as the UK regulatory body, that all tooth whitening procedures, including bleach and laser treatments, constitute the practise of dentistry. I have also noted the GDC statement of the 23 July 2008. Consequently, these procedures may only be carried out by or under the prescription of a dentist.

As for the provision of tooth bleaching privately, the Private Dentistry (Wales) Regulations 2008 which came into force on 1 January 2009, require dental practitioners who provide private dental services in Wales to meet the National Minimum Standards for Private Dental Services which mirror the standards of healthcare applied in NHS dental practices.

Edwina Hart