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Kevin O'Brien
General Dental Council
37 Wimpole Street
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FILE COPY

Dear Kevin O'Brien

Thank you for your last letter and I fully understand your point in regard to the GDC's remit, and that it does not involve itself in reviews of scientific evidence or bodies of scientific opinion outside the context of specific complaints. This does seem strange when written on headed paper with "protecting patients" at the top, which does suggest an implicit responsibility, that I am sure would confuse the public and press.

I can state, with a good level of certainty, that contemporary orthodontics is not evidence based and may well not be providing any long term benefit to the 30% plus percentage of the population that are being treated in the UK (using public funds). While I understand that Turkeys don't vote for Christmas there seems to be no avenue to open any debate on this issue, except going to the public.

As the chairman of the General Dental Council and a professor in Orthodontics, I would like your advice on what to do next. The truth always comes out in the end and inaction by a self-regulating profession now will certainly have long-term repercussions.

What do you think that I should do now? Nothing? Are there other organizations that I should go to? Should I re-contact the CHRE, which with a cover letter from you would gain surely gain a better response, and possibly some much needed action?

Yours faithfully,

Michael Mew,