MPs knock independent review

Nearly half of patients believe they could have been offered a better service by their dentist, according to a recent survey. The national survey carried about by RevalHealth.com, a specialist healthcare search engine, also found that three quarters of the population would like to change something about themselves. Consumers are most worried about their teeth with 45 per cent wanting some kind of work, closely followed by a third wanting to change something about their body and 17 per cent who want to change their face or correct their eyesight through laser eye surgery.

Alcohol abuse

A retired dentist who lay dead in his house for weeks before being found, apparently drank himself to death, a coroner said. William Hunter Gray Dodds, a retired dentist in Portsmouth was discovered by police at his home surrounded by empty beer cans and rotten food. Portsmouth coroner’s court heard how Mr Gray Dodds, who suffered from alcoholism, had not been seen for several weeks before police found him dead. His body was in an advanced state of decomposition and police said the death was not suspicious. He was known to be a ‘long term abuses alcohol’. Mr Gray Dodds had no known living family. He had divorced from his ex-wife, who now lives in South Africa, many years ago. An autopsy revealed Mr Gray Dodds had cirrhosis of the liver and had consumed a lot of alcohol before he died.

Mr Penning added: ‘If we want dentists to come back into the NHS we must give them the confidence to do so’.

During a debate in the House of Commons, Sandra Gidley, Liberal Democrat health spokesperson, said: ‘The panel undertaking the review has been welcomed, but I note that it contains no community dentist and so some dentists will be wondering about its composition.’

She added: ‘It seems to be made up of a couple of academics, somebody who apparently wants to be the chief dental officer one day and a failed commissioner who commissioned dental services without doing a needs assessment.

‘Does that augur well for the future,’ she asked.