Editorial comment

Turning a blind eye

The government’s response to the Health Select Committee report conjures up the old adage of the three wise monkeys does it not; ‘See no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil.’ For it’s an easy path to follow isn’t it.

In short, turning a wilful blind eye to the situation is one way of dealing with a somewhat ‘difficult’ situation. But waves of disappointment are breaking on the profession. Has the hard graft required to compile the report been wasted? The meticulous detail combed together from the Committee was black and white i.e. ‘Things have worsened since the changes of the General Dental Service in April 2006, with nearly a million fewer people seeing a dentist since the reforms’. Whoops!

Okay, so it’s not exactly good news for the government to deal with, but to blatantly deny such evidence is not the way to go if it wants to build bridges. The local blurb is good though and we will do our bit from every possible perspective. If only the government would follow suit.

In April 2006, at the time of the reforms, the government promised to ‘work with professional and patient groups to review how nationally and locally services are delivered.’ This has not happened and it is a start.

Acknowledging that ‘progress does it possibly think it can be measured?’ is a start. And pledging to ‘work with professional and patient groups to review how nationally and locally services are delivered.’ This has not happened and it is a start.

In short, turning a wilful blind eye to the situation is one way of dealing with a somewhat ‘difficult’ situation. But waves of disappointment are breaking on the profession. Has the hard graft required to compile the report been wasted? The meticulous detail combed together from the Committee was black and white i.e. ‘Things have worsened since the changes of the General Dental Service in April 2006, with nearly a million fewer people seeing a dentist since the reforms’. Whoops!

Okay, so it’s not exactly good news for the government to deal with, but to blatantly deny such evidence is not the way to go if it wants to build bridges. The local blurb is good though and we will do our bit from every possible perspective. If only the government would follow suit.

In April 2006, at the time of the reforms, the government promised to ‘work with professional and patient groups to review how nationally and locally services are delivered.’ This has not happened and it is a start.