



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

Health Department

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TOWARDS BETTER ORAL HEALTH IN CHILDREN

The consultation document "[Towards Better Oral Health in Children](#)" was published on 24th September 2002. It sets out the facts about oral health in Scotland, describes what is currently in train to bring about improvement, and seeks views on what more needs to be done to accelerate progress.

The consultation was originally due to close on 31st December 2002, but we have extended this to 28th February 2003, in response to a number of representations that more time is needed to consider the full range of issues and extend the opportunity to comment.

I take this opportunity remind you again that dental and oral health in Scotland is poor compared with England and other European countries, with the highest levels of decay found amongst the least well off. The problem is especially acute among children.

In particular the Executive is seeking views on:

- * further measures on healthy eating and health promotion;
- * how dental services and preventative treatments could be enhanced; and
- * alternative ways of using fluoride

A range of approaches is needed if lasting improvements in oral health are to be secured. Your views will help determine the measures which need to be taken to this end.

Further copies of “Towards Better Oral Health in Children” are available from:
Sandra Smith
Public Health Policy 1.1
3E(S)
St Andrews House
Regent Rd
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Responses are invited by 28 February 2003. You may post your comments to the address above or email to childrensoralhealth@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ray Watkins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R' and a trailing flourish.

RAY WATKINS
Chief Dental Officer