



UCC

Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh, Éire  
University College Cork, Ireland

RJMcC160206

27<sup>th</sup> February 2006

Ms. Carol Boate,  
Manager,  
Advocacy Division,  
The Competition Authority,  
Parnell House,  
14, Parnell Square,  
Dublin 1,  
Ireland.

An Coláiste Leighis agus Sláinte  
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Dear Ms. Boate,

I write in response to the Competition Authority Report on Professional Services relating to Dentists as issued in preliminary form in December 2005. The recommendation which has most direct effect on the Dental School is recommendation nine which states that the Higher Education Authority should undertake a detailed review of the number of training places to determine whether the number of places in dentistry needs to be increased, and, if so, to what level.

The Cork Dental School & Hospital welcomes such a review in line with recent reviews of medicine, pharmacy and health therapies. A recent review in the United Kingdom has identified the need for additional dentists resulting in a considerable increase in the number of student dentists in training.

The Dental School would give every assistance to the HEA in determining the optimum number of dentists to be trained in the future and would work to implement any recommendations of such a review when supported by appropriate resources. The Competition Authority rightly identifies the intensive nature of dental education and the consequently high unit cost of this training. It is necessary to point out, however, that the figures quoted in the report relating to unit cost refer solely to Cork Dental School as the Dublin Dental School does not fall under the remit of the HEA.

There is one point I would like to correct in the report in relation to orthodontics; the report states that when the postgraduate programme begins in Cork an extra six training places will be provided. The information sent to the Competition Authority clearly states that four places will be available on the Cork programme.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R.J. McConnell', written over a horizontal line.

Professor R.J. McConnell,  
Head,  
University Dental School & Hospital.

Professor Robert J. McConnell BSc, PhD, FFD  
Head, School and Hospital

Ollscoil na hÉireann, Corcaigh  
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