

ADG membership reaches record 30 UK Dental Groups

2026 is set to be a year of growth for the Association of Dental Groups (ADG) as membership hits a record 30 Dental Groups. As the trade body representing the dental workforce across the 'mixed economy' of NHS, Private and Community-based services, ADG's purpose since the association's creation 15 years ago in 2011, is to advocate for UK dental groups by working with stakeholders and policymakers. The leadership of ADG members are often experienced dentists themselves, with involvement in professional and vocational training. Areas of focus include working on sector improvements for dental groups, including sharing consistent best practice, supporting innovation, and encouraging the investment and skills development of all dental professionals.

ADG's new dental groups are:

1. Brite Dental
2. Smart Dental Care
3. Wooding Dental Group
4. Pain Free Dentistry Group
5. Goel Dental

Neil Carmichael, Executive Chair, Association of Dental Groups said: *"The Association of Dental Groups warmly welcomes our five new dental groups to our ADG membership. This is a fantastic moment to join as we look forward to celebrating our 15th anniversary. For a decade and a half, the ADG Team, Board and our actively involved membership have been working hard to make sure those running the business of dentistry in this country are heard. We are working with stakeholders to ensure NHS contract reforms reflect the challenges our dental group leaders are facing. Over the last 15 years dentistry has changed almost beyond recognition, and we must ensure that dental groups are supported to deliver the access patients deserve.*

"A key issue we have been campaigning to resolve is the massive gap in the dental workforce. We have over 2,700 dentist vacancies, across the NHS and Private sectors in the UK, plus vacancies in the wider workforce. Addressing the Overseas Registration Examination bottleneck must be a priority. We know there are more than 5,000 trained international dentists who are queuing up to take the exam which would immediately improve patient access.

"As the ADG grows our voice becomes louder and the Association's power to push for change becomes even stronger. This is how we will achieve improvements in dentistry for patients and professionals."

The ADG represents over 2,000 practices, with approximately 1,800 in England and the balance spread across the devolved nations. The ADG's members are made up of approximately 10,000 clinicians delivering NHS, Private and Community-based dentistry to more than 10 million patients every year. ADG members adopt and share best practice to enable their peers to deliver the highest quality service to patients, with a focus on preventative care.

Ends

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Notes to editors:

- Read more: [About the Association of Dental Groups \(ADG\)](#)
- Read more: [Dental Industry Awards Winners 2025](#)

About the Association of Dental Groups (ADG)

- [The Association of Dental Groups \(ADG\)](#) is the trade association for groups of dental health and care practices and organisations working with and on behalf of members, representing their views and progressing improvements in the working environment for groups of dental providers of oral health care.
- The ADG has 30 members including some of the largest groups of dental practices in the country, but the Association also represents smaller providers with fewer than 5 practices. Of the 2,000 practices which members operate, approximately 1,800 are in England with the balance spread across the devolved nations.
- Across ADG's members there are approximately 10,000 clinicians delivering NHS, community and private dentistry to more than 10 million patients every year.
- ADG members adopt and share best practice to enable their peers to deliver the highest quality service to patients.
- The leadership of ADG members are often experienced dentists themselves, with involvement in professional and vocational training, enabling them to provide expertise as trainers and advisers.
- Areas of focus include working on sector improvements for dental groups, including sharing consistent best practice, supporting innovation, and encouraging the investment and skills development of all dental professionals. The ADG aims to do this by shaping policy, raising awareness and influencing key stakeholders.
- The ADG is involved in policy development, encouraging policy makers to make evidence-based decisions.
- The ADG takes a solutions-focused approach to create the most supportive environment for dental groups where teams feel valued and are able to provide the highest quality dental care for patients.
- The ADG supports, promotes and encourages a prevention approach to improve oral health.
- Workforce support includes campaigning for more dentists to be trained in the UK, identifying key strategies to improve recruitment and the retention of dental professionals from the UK and abroad, including streamlining onboarding processes.
- The ADG works with key stakeholders to contribute to undergraduate, foundation and DCP training and provide opportunities to create a learning and supportive environment for dental teams.
- When it comes to commissioning, the ADG influences in key areas to ensure both private and NHS dentistry are developed in a financially sustainable way.