Dentistry minister loses seat in General Election

Ministerial Health team decimated by lost seats, lack of clear outcome leaves both dentistry and country in limbo

The minister in charge of NHS dentistry, Andy Burnham, has lost her seat in the General Election.

Doubled Mrs Expenses for her role in the MP expenses scandal, Mrs Keen lost her seat of Brentford and Isleworth to the Conservatives.

She and her husband Alan Keen, were investigated by the parliamentary commissioner for standards earlier this year, after they combined second homes allowances to buy an apartment in a development at Waterloo in London.

The rest of the Labour health team also lost their seats, with the exception of Secretary of State Andy Burnham.

The Conservative health team all managed to win their seats, which means Mike Penning, the shadow minister currently in charge of dentistry, could become the new dentist minister.

The Lib Dem health spokes- man, Norman Lamb, also won his seat of Norfolk North with 27,554 votes.

Sir Paul Beresford, a practising dentist who runs a private surgery in London, managed to keep his seat as Conservative MP for Mole Valley in Surrey and even increased his share of the vote by 2.8 per cent.

He picked up 51,265 votes out of the 54,524 total, a 57.5 per cent share and more than double the number gained by his nearest rival, Liberal Democrat Alice Humphreys.

Sir Paul said he was ‘pleased and relieved’ at the result. He added: “It shows the support that I have because of the time I have spent working in Mole Valley.”

Labour's Anas Sarwar com fortablely beat the SNP’S (Scottish Nationalist Party) candidate by almost 10,000 votes, in Glasgow Central. Mr Sarwar polled 15,089 votes, while Osama Saeed, the SNP candidate, polled 5,557. The 27-year-old worked for more than four years as an NHS general practitioner in Paisley before stepping down a few months ago to concentrate on campaigning.

The General Election with its uncertain outcome has left the country in turmoil. The Conservative needed 326 seats to win outright and now the country faces the prospect of a hung parliament.

The Dental Practitioners Association has branded the outcome of the election as an ‘unsatisfactory mess’. Derek Watson, its chief executive claimed that dentistry has been plunged into uncertainty and called it a ‘very unsatisfactory mess’.

The British Dental Association refused to comment on the result as it is apolitical.

The British Dental Health Foundation (BDHF) claimed that the race to become prime minis- ter was very dependent on a good smile. A national survey from the BDHF found that almost 70 per cent of people preferring his smile to that of his election rivals.

Labour’s Gordon Brown came in second with 35 per cent while Liberal Democrat leader Nick Clegg came in third with 29 per cent.

The result of the survey seems to be borne out by the election results. The BDHF recently conducted a survey to find out which party the public thought had the best smile.

As Dental Tribune went to press, discussions were still be- ing held between the Tories and the Lib Dems over a power shar- ing deal. The Lib Dem team has also been meeting with senior Labour officials to see what a Lib Dem/Labour pact would mean for the country.