

# The fifth NHS Confidence Monitor - **The Full Results**

## NHS dentists significantly unhappier than those in private practice

**NHS dentists are drastically less happy than those working in private practice, according to our latest NHS Confidence Monitor survey.**

This is the fifth time the survey has been run, but the first time private dentists have been approached for comment too. The focus for this survey switched from the profession's confidence in the future of NHS dentistry to their happiness levels working within it.

The survey asked NHS dentists to rate how happy they feel that they can achieve what they want to across seven areas – patient care, managing patient expectations, work/life balance, fair remuneration, job satisfaction, doing their job within agreed working hours, and carrying out work without feeling overly stressed.

Private dentists were also asked to rate how happy they felt in these areas, compared to when they were working in the NHS. The results showed that, across the board, NHS dentists were much less happy than private dentists.

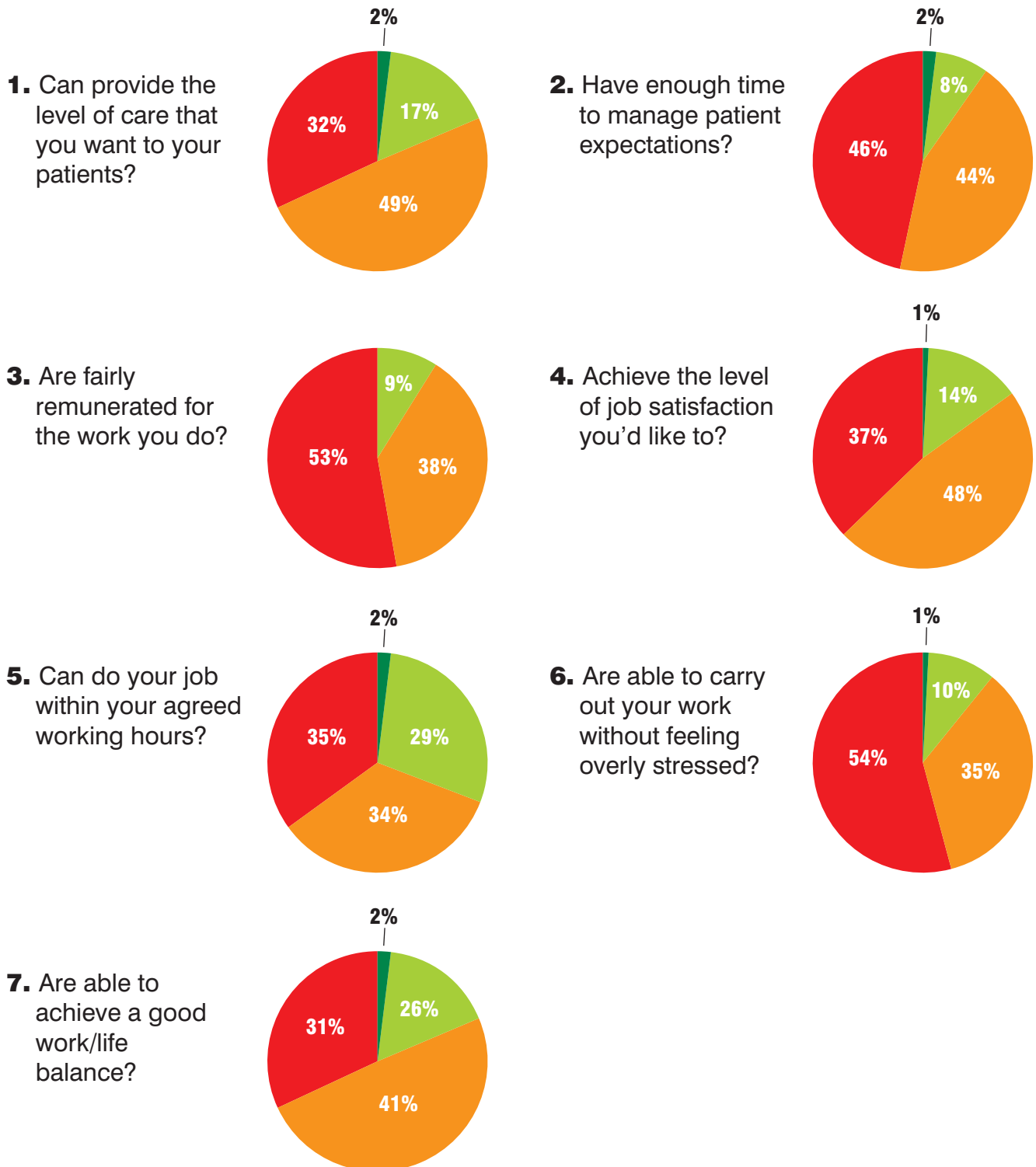
**MORE THAN 400 DENTISTS** took part in the survey and, as well as the above, we also asked questions about:

- the risk of litigation
- meeting GDC standards
- NHS dentistry as a core service
- professionalism within an NHS contract.

**Read on to see the results...**

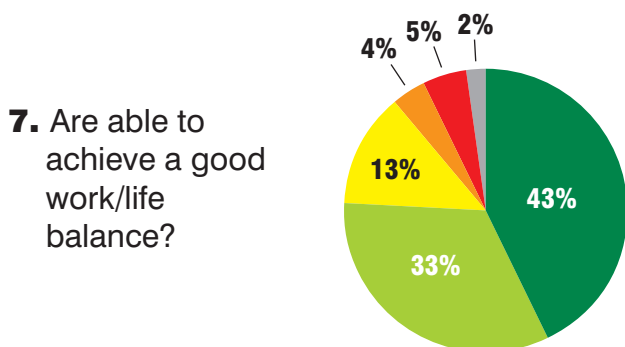
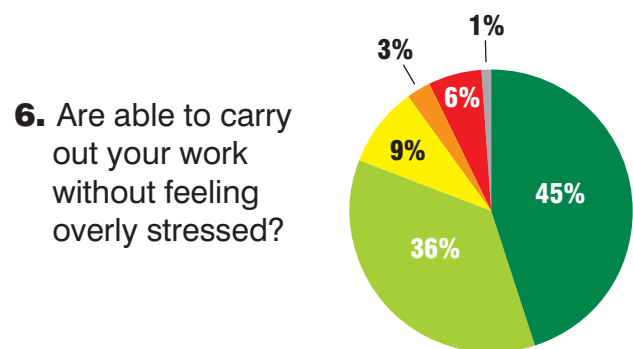
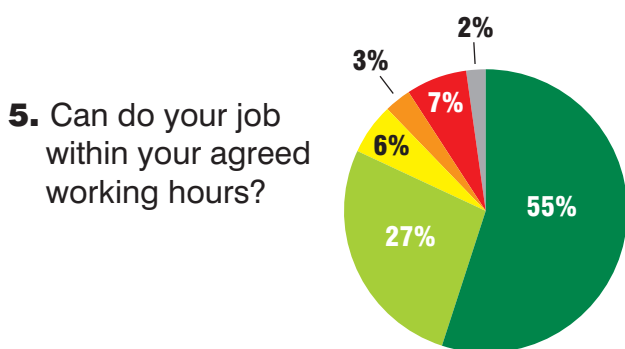
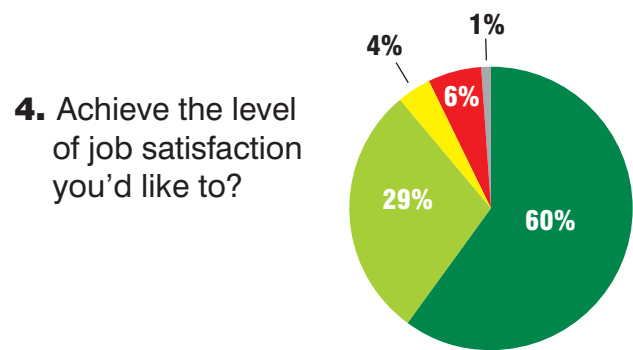
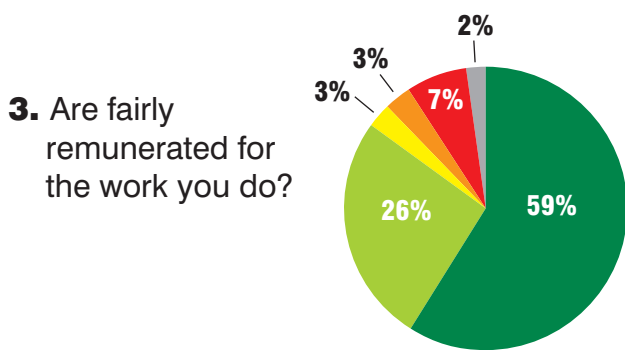
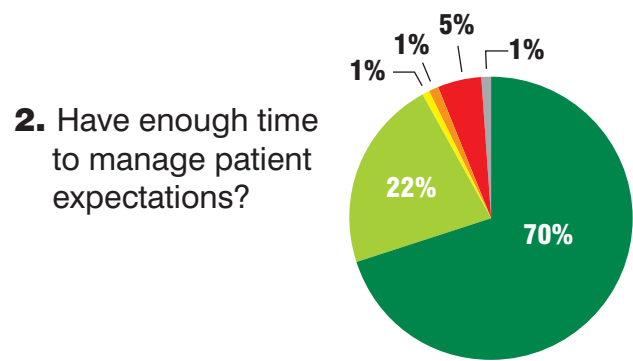
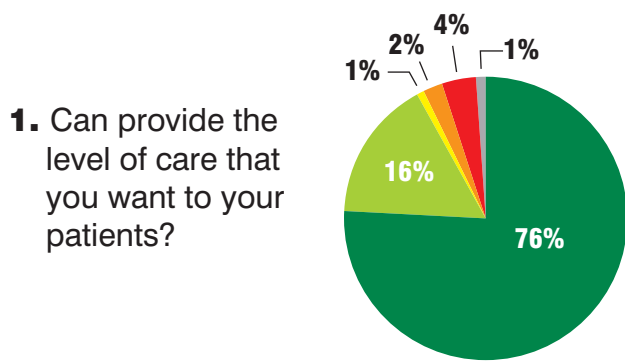
**Q** ■ When thinking about working within the NHS,  
■ how happy are you that you...

Key: ■ Very happy ■ Happy ■ Unhappy ■ Very unhappy

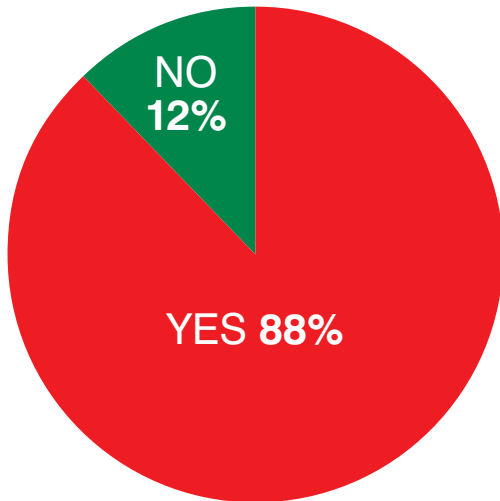


**Q** ■ Compared to when you were working in the NHS,  
■ how happy are you that you...

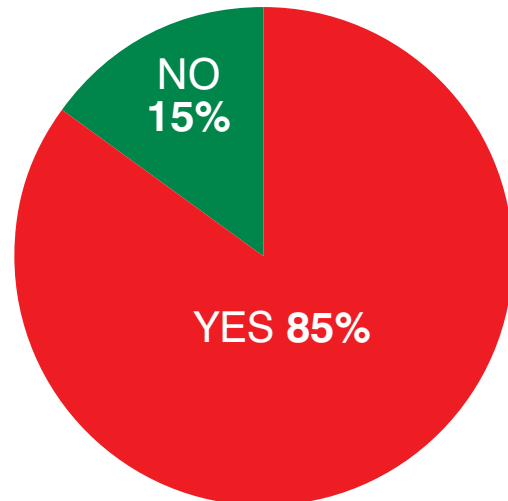
Key: ■ Much Happier ■ Happier ■ Same ■ Less happy ■ Much less happy ■ N/A



**Q:** Do you think it's harder to adhere to GDC standards in the NHS compared to private dentistry?



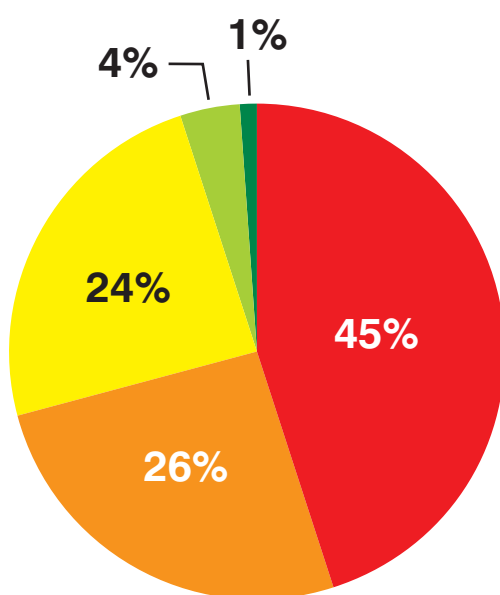
**NHS**



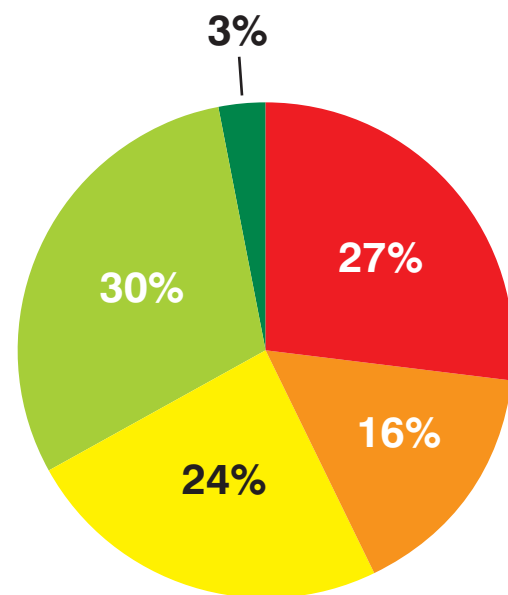
**PRIVATE**

**Q:** How anxious are you about the risk of complaints/litigation?

Key: ■ Extremely anxious ■ Very anxious ■ Anxious ■ Not very anxious ■ Not at all anxious

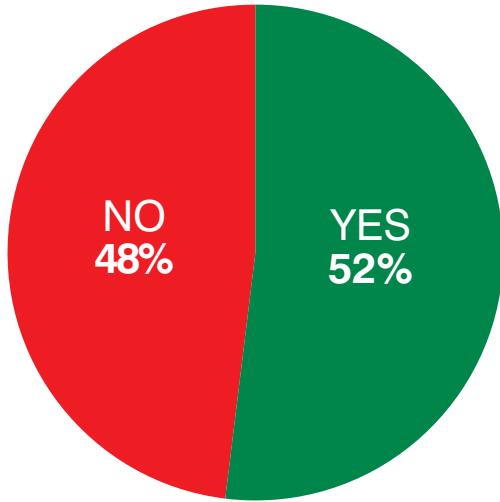


**NHS**

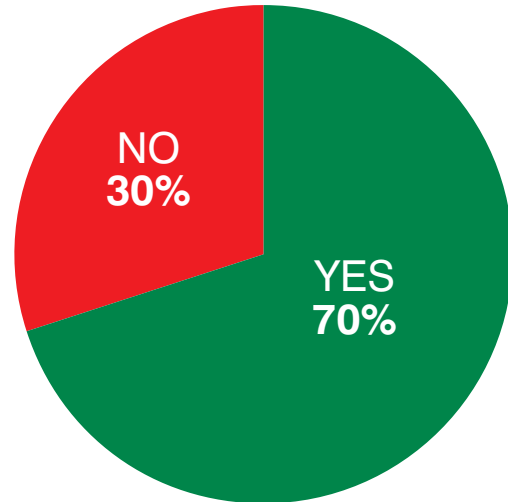


**PRIVATE**

**Q:** Are you glad you entered dentistry as a profession?

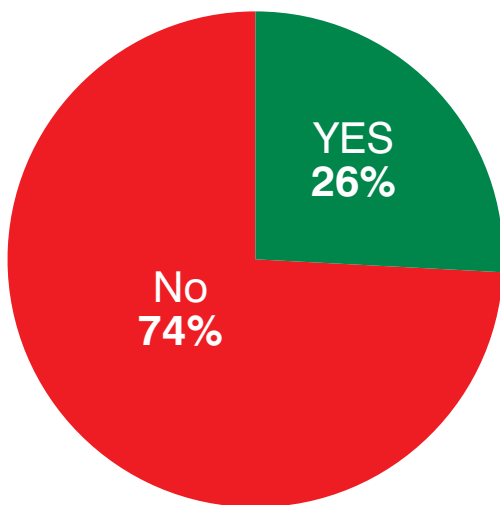


**NHS**

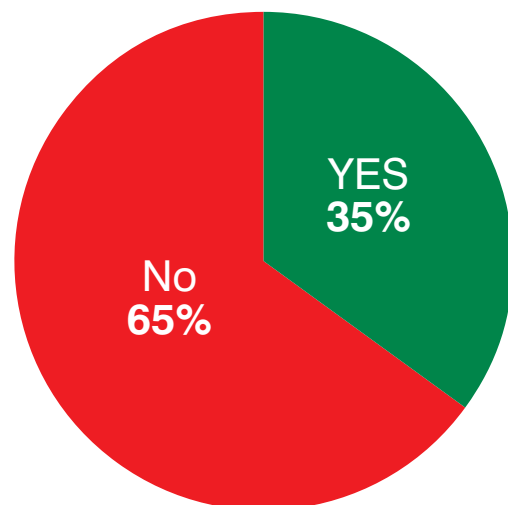


**PRIVATE**

**Q:** Would you recommend dentistry as a profession to a friend/family member?



**NHS**



**PRIVATE**

**Q:** As a percentage, what is your confidence level that dentistry has a long-term future in the NHS? (0% being no confidence and 100% being extremely confident.)

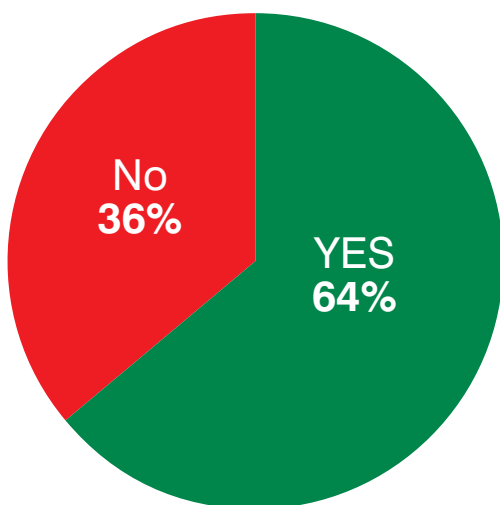
**28%**

**NHS**

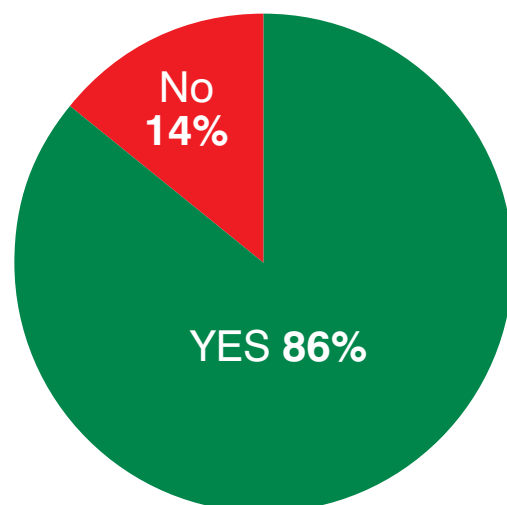
**19%**

**PRIVATE**

**Q:** There has been much discussion around where NHS dentistry fits into the wider NHS, with some people suggesting NHS dentistry should move to a 'core' service (NHS dentistry servicing only vulnerable groups and those who cannot afford to pay the charges). Do you believe a move like this would be an appropriate prioritisation of NHS budgets?

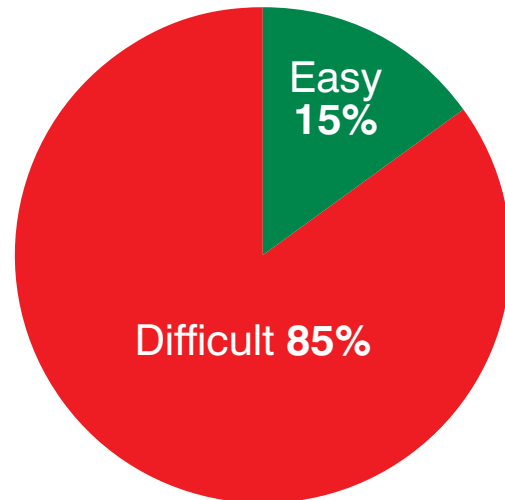


**NHS**



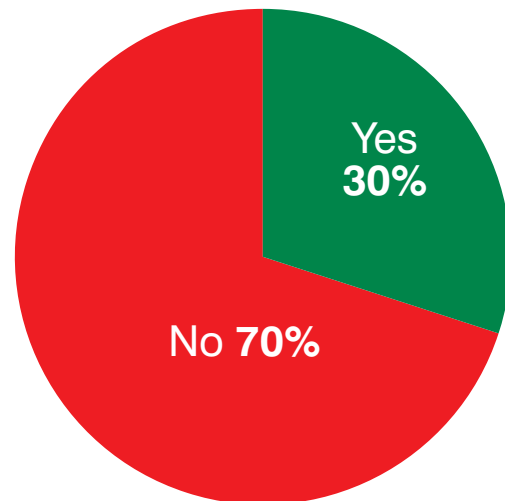
**PRIVATE**

**Q** ■ The NHS aspires to the highest standards of excellence and professionalism.  
■ How easy do you find it to balance professionalism and working within an NHS contract?



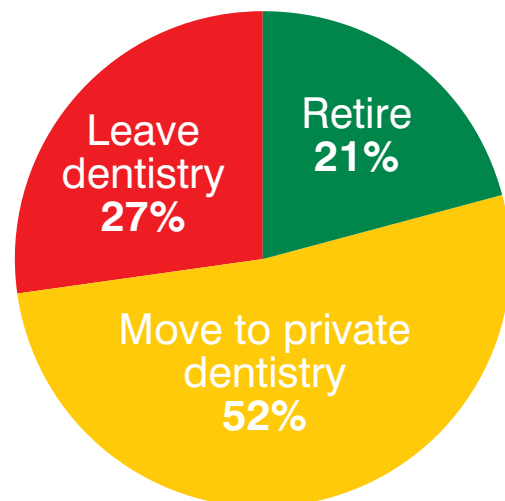
**NHS**

**Q** ■ Do you see yourself operating within the NHS in five years' time?



**NHS**

**Q** ■ What do you plan to do?  
■ (230 answered)



**NHS**