

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

Whilst I was interested to read the paper 'Orthodontic Treatment with Fixed Appliances in the General Dental Service in Scotland', I was somewhat concerned about the conclusion that there appeared to be a borderline need for treatment in many cases.

This conclusion is based on the examination of 128 start and finish models and the application of an index which is at best fallible and at worst flawed.

Knowing two of the authors I have no doubts at all about the quality of the research or the statistical review, my concern is that lay persons reading this article could be

misled by the conclusions and even be prompted towards action based on purely economic parameters which could be greatly to the disadvantage of orthodontics, orthodontists and patients.

Authors of this type of article would be well advised to consider the implications of their findings in the present political and economic climate.

Yours faithfully,

KENNETH W. LUMSDEN  
Chairman,  
British Orthodontic Society.