

Dear Mr McGuigan:

19/03/24

The pro-mercury British Dental Association is trying to cajole more money for dentists for the NHS—it has the right to do so. But it has no right to mislead you—and it would be a grievous error if this lobby group has its way and brings amalgam peddlers into Northern Ireland.

The BDA is hawking a product invented at the end of your Georgian era, a primitive, tooth-unfriendly pollutant surpassed in cavity prevention, tooth friendliness, safety, and environmental quality by today's alternatives. Amalgam has no role in modern dentistry.

The dental mercury lobbyists have suffered one defeat after another—as well they should. The EU bans amalgam in 9½ months—research is over, the time to act is now. The Minamata Convention on Mercury, starting at its 4<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP4) in 2022, shifted the emphasis from phasedown to phase out—calling for the end of amalgam for children and pregnant and breastfeeding women as of the date of entry into force, eight months ago. At the COP5 last year, the dental mercury lobby suffered yet another devastating defeat: all countries not yet phasing out amalgam must file a report on their progress, and an amalgam phase out date of 2030 was written into the treaty. It is in brackets, so it is aspirational not legally binding—nonetheless, it is in the text as a worldwide goal.

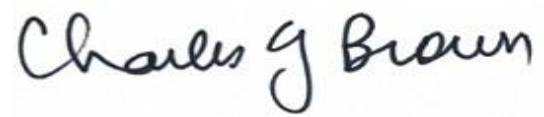
With amalgam finished in the EU and the non-EU continental nations (Norway, Switzerland, Moldova, et al.), the BDA aspires for Britain to be an isolated land of mercury pollution as everyone else moves on. To Shakespeare's "This royal throne of kings, this sceptered isle, This earth of majesty, this seat of Mars," we fear a new line will be added: "This island replete with toxic mercury, surrounded by mercury-free lands on both sides."

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Having brokered the deal, the United States puts great stock in the Good Friday Agreement (as does our Irish American President). If the Windsor Framework Committee tries to wedge this toxin mercury amalgam into Northern Ireland, it has a no-win choice: either:

- Accept the free trade zone, which means dumping amalgam that can then be transported anywhere in the 27-nation E.U., nullifying EU law; or
- Reinstate the trade barrier between North and South to keep the amalgam out of the South and out of Europe.

The World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry is watching carefully. Unless the demands of this pro-mercury lobby group are rejected, we are prepared to file a petition with the US State Department asking for my government to investigate a violation of the Good Friday Agreement.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles G. Brown". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Charles" and last name "Brown" clearly legible. The middle initial "G." is written in a smaller, more compact cursive style between the first and last names.

Charles G. Brown, J.D.

President, World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry; [mercuryfreedentistry.net](http://mercuryfreedentistry.net)