

Regional European Organisation of the FDI

National Report

Country: United Kingdom

Association: British Dental Association (BDA)

Venue: Geneva

Year: 2017

Please classify your national report by following subjects:

Changes in the association and its organisation

There have been no specific changes in the association and its organisation.

Trends and developments in professional politics:

- NHS England is planning to introduce a new Dynamic Purchasing System for orthodontic procurement in the South region of England. The BDA has raised a wide range of concerns with NHS England over the system and the requirements it places on practices potentially bidding for contracts.
- The BDA has called on Parliament to hold NHS subcontractor Capita accountable for administrative failings that are preventing hundreds of NHS dentists in England from earning a living – putting their practices and their families in jeopardy. Severe in adding dentists to NHS lists, permitting them to work with NHS patients, are creating severe problems for dental practices and their patients. The BDA is now pressing for compensation for those affected.

Trends and developments in health and social politics

- The UK's dental regulator is currently consulting on its role and the BDA is canvassing its members to find out their opinions on a number of related matters. A major government consultation on health and social care regulation is expected for later this year, which could change significantly the way dental professionals are regulated in the long term. There is no detailed information on this consultation yet.
- In the most recent government budget, the Chancellor of the Exchequer (the UK's finance minister) confirmed a levy of 18 and 24p per litre for sugary drinks with more than 5 grams per 100ml and 8g per 100ml respectively. The government committed to spending £1b from this levy on school sport and healthy eating initiatives regardless.
- In a recent Parliamentary debate on the findings of a report into the problem of antibiotic resistance, UK Members of Parliament highlighted the important role dentists play in the fight against antimicrobial resistance.
- BDA Scotland has asked the Scottish Government how they plan to use public awareness and earlier diagnosis and treatment to address the increasing incidence of oral cancers in Scotland.

- Scotland is in the midst of a national consultation on oral health in Scotland which will focus on three main areas: the introduction of an Oral Health Risk Assessment for 18 year olds; the development and separation of a Preventative Pathway and a Treatment Pathway; and the commissioning of specialist services or enhanced services: e.g. specialist domiciliary care of the elderly; specialist oral surgery in primary care; specialist restorative treatment; complex; intravenous sedation; orthodontics. All of these issues will have implications for regulation, training and the wider dental team.
- Rising indemnity costs will worsen the growing retention issue in NHS dentistry, with many part-time or older more experienced dentists deciding that it is not financially worthwhile to continue to practise, due to a cut to the personal injuries discount rate used to determine lump sum compensation to claimants from 2.5% to -0.75%. The effect will be an increase in the size of compensation payments, including in medical and dental negligence cases, leading to significant new costs for the NHS and other providers of medical and dental care.

Trends and developments in educational politics

- In England, postgraduate dental education (dental foundation training, specialisation, continuing professional development) is largely funded by Health Education England (HEE) through a system of regional offices. HEE has announced that it will need to make significant cuts to staffing, which will affect the provision of education to dentists and their teams.

Trends and developments in the insurance system (incl. the public health insurance and private insurance schemes)

- There are no particular changes to the system, which is under long-term review.
- There are implications for dentists resulting from the latest government budget, in relation to national insurance contributions, business rates and taxation.

Trends and developments in dental care for persons applying for asylum or refugees

- There are no particular trends or developments in relation to dental care for asylum seekers or refugees. Individuals are entitled to free dental care through the government system.

Changes in fees

- There is nothing to report in relation to dental care fees. The contract that NHS dentists work to in England is undergoing a long-term review, with some pilot and prototype schemes. There is no confirmed date for implementation at the present time.
- BDA Wales has secured substantial amendments to new Welsh Government regulations on private dentistry, including those to ensure single-handed practitioners are not onerously burdened by annual fees and that private practices are not subject to unreasonable bureaucracy.
- BDA Northern Ireland has succeeded in putting a halt to a revised Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA) inspection process, arguing that the revised system was not based on robust evidence and data and would create an unnecessary duplication of regulation for dentists.

Information regarding promotion of the World Oral Health Day

- The BDA provided a Press Statement, blog and video in celebration of WOHD based on FDI materials

Further information (activities, concerns):

- Brexit and how it will affect workforce as well as European cooperation in the health sector across Europe (for example, medical devices or the European alert mechanism) will be a continuing theme as the UK prepares for negotiations with the EU to leave.