

## ***Regional European Organisation of the FDI***

### ***National Report***

***Country: UK***

***Association: British Dental Association***

***Venue: Salzburg***

***Year: 2018***

*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***

- Regulation: the UK regulator the General Dental Council, is currently consulting on a new fee-setting policy for the annual retention fee for being on the dental register, and therefore being permitted to work as a dentist. For dentists in the UK, this will be an important consultation as the BDA took the GDC to court over its registration fee-setting in 2014.
- Orthodontic procurement: the BDA has condemned an approach by the NHS in England which will significantly change how these services will be provided. The BDA has also taken this issue to judicial review.
- Recruitment: The BDA believes that dentistry is facing a recruitment crisis, with 68% of NHS practices in England who attempted to recruit in the last year struggled to fill vacancies.

#### ***Trends and developments in health and social politics***

- Regulation: the government recently consulted on potential changes to the regulatory system for health and social care. The BDA provided a full response on the necessary levels of regulatory scrutiny, the role and size of regulators, and the costs involved.
- The implementation of the EU Regulation on Mercury is ongoing. BDA representatives are involved a working group which is in the process of developing relevant advice.
- The NHS is exploring and developing methods of integrating different aspects of health and social care into Integrated Care Systems or Organisations. These can involve vertical integration of primary and secondary care and/or horizontal integration of different services and providers. Work is ongoing as to if, and how, dentistry might be involved.

### ***Trends and developments in educational politics***

- Health Education England, an arms-length organisation in charge of some of the funding streams for health education, is currently undertaking a project looking at the current education system with a view to making changes to workforce planning. The BDA is very critical of the proposals, especially of a potential move “common entry” for all dental professional groups.

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

- Access to NHS dental care remains a major issue in England and Wales in particular, as the contract is based on dentists meeting certain targets rather than ensuring better access. The BDA is concerned about attempts to increase access without additional funding, such as suggested changes to dental recall intervals in some areas.
- A new contractual system has been piloted and prototypes exist, but it currently does not look as if the proposed changes will move dentistry away from the target-driven system. The BDA is committed to the process of contract reform, but wishes to see a stronger focus on capitation.

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

None to report

### ***Migration of dentists: problems and possible solutions***

The implications of the UK’s departure from the EU for the dental workforce remain unclear at this point.

### ***Migration of persons applying for asylum or refugees: problems and solutions in dental care.***

None to report.

### ***Changes in fees:***

None to report

### ***Information regarding promotion of the World Oral Health Day:***

The BDA will participate but materials were not ready for distribution at the time of writing.

*Further information (activities):*

***What are your 3 main concerns?***

- The NHS dental contract in the UK
- The current project on workforce planning by Health Education England which could jeopardise the quality of dental training
- Sugar and child dental health

***3 points you would like to discuss***

- How the amalgam phase-down relates to the concept of Minimal Intervention dentistry - or minimally invasive dentistry. Some countries in Europe have already put in place public health measures that have upscaled prevention programmes that have enabled early various lesions to be dealt with in a timely way. Are there lessons to be learned for the others?
- In the UK, there are workforce planning activities being undertaken which could jeopardise the quality of dental training. We fear the purpose is to lead to substitution of provision of dental services by non-dentists.
- Stress and burnout: the BDA is currently undertaking a major research project into stress levels across the profession. Initial results are now available, showing that many dentists not currently practising said that job stress was at least partially responsible for their decision to leave the profession. General dental practitioners report significantly higher stress than all other types of dentists. Results will be published later in the year. The BDA would be interested to know if other countries have undertaken similar research and what their findings might have been.