A 36-year-old woman was fined after she was caught by police flossing her teeth while driving 70mph on the motorway. A police spokeswoman said: “We’ve caught women applying make-up in the mirror. But this is the first time we’ve seen someone flossing their teeth as you need both hands, which should be on the wheel.” The unnamed woman, who was caught on the M4 at Newport, Gwent, had to pay a £60 fine.

**GDC facts**

At present the total number of registered dentists stands at 56,215 and the total number of dental care professionals is 57,656. In January, the General Dental Council’s customer advice and information team dealt with nearly 7,500 phone calls and 617 emails. A large number of the phone calls were from registrants requesting an Annual Practising Certificate for 2010 and the team issued 409 duplicates. There were more than 550 enquiries asking for guidance on how to apply for dental care professional registration.

**Infant oral mutilation**

A dental hygienist is travelling to Uganda, and will also be giving much needed dental treatment. The charity Christian Relief Warrington, is going out with ‘Ebiino’ or infant oral mutilation. People about the dangers of removing an infant’s gum. A dental hygienist is travelling to Uganda, and will also be giving much needed dental treatment. The charity Christian Relief Warrington, is going out with ‘Ebiino’ or infant oral mutilation. People about the dangers of removing an infant’s gum.

A host of signatories, including dental professionals, have signed an open letter of opposition against the deci-sion to fluoridate drinking water in Southampton.

It is a year since the South Central Strategic Health Authority (SCSHA) took the decision to add fluoride to water in South-ampton and parts of Hampshire.

Much of the antipathy to the scheme is because the people in the area feel their views have been ignored as the SCSHA is going ahead despite 72 per cent of public consultation respondents rejecting the proposal.

**Local opposition**

The letter states that during the past year, local opposition to the scheme has grown, a 15,000-signature petition has been handed in to Doonham Street and every local MP has since written to the Strategic Health Authority to express concern at your continuing determination to impose fluoridation on an unwilling community.

The letter adds: “We urge you to ensure that the local NHS places greater emphasis on the implementation of targeted community-based oral health strate-gies as an alternative to water fluoridation.

It points to a peer-reviewed study published in the Journal of the American Dental Association that confirms previous research showing that babies fed formula milk in areas where the water is fluoridated at 1.0ppm may receive excess fluoride, putting them at risk of fluorosis.

The legal challenge argues that the SCSHA failed to have the possible adverse environ-mental effects. She also con-siders that more targeted and less intrusive measures should be used to deal with problems of tooth decay in the Southampton area.”

**Majority favour**

The legal challenge argues that the SCSHA failed to have regard to the British Govern-ment’s policy that mass fluo-ridation of drinking water should only go ahead in any particular area if a majority of the local people are in favour of it.

The open letter, which was submitted by the cam-paign group Hampshire Against Fluoridation said: Given the fi-nancial constraints currently faced by the NHS, we are con-cerned that precious NHS funds are being used to force through a scheme that the local commu-nity does not want. These funds could be better used to develop alternative, more effective oral health schemes. ‘Waste of money’ The SHA’s decision to continue with water fluoridation and to fight a legal challenge is seen as a waste of Health Service money and we are concerned that this will damage the reputation of the local NHS. A