Dr Cockcroft backs e-learning

The first dentists will be appointed first in the areas that need them most and are expected to be in post by the end of the year. The three-year contract has gone to Oasis Dental Care Ltd, which owns and operates 170 dental practices throughout England and Wales.

Mr McGimpsey said he hoped the new contract will ‘greatly ease current access problems’. He added: ‘Oasis Dental Care Ltd will provide 56 dentists, targeted in access ‘hotspot’ areas across Northern Ireland.

Oasis Dental Care has won a £17m contract to help alleviate the huge gaps in NHS dental care in Northern Ireland. The contract means Northern Ireland should get 58 more NHS dentists.

Health Minister for Northern Ireland, Michael McGimpsey said he has awarded a £17m contract for the provision of additional dentists ‘where they were most needed’. He claims that the contract will provide access for an additional 57,000 NHS patients.

Police renew murder appeal

Police investigating the alleged crimes of a Northern Ireland dentist accused of murder, have renewed their appeal asking for former patients to come forward.

Dr Colin Howell, is accused of murdering his wife and his ex-lover’s husband. The 50-year-old, from Castlerock, is also charged with drugging and indecently assaulting a number of women.

Two months ago, detectives wrote to former patients at practices in Ballymoney and Bangor as part of their enquiries. They have now issued a renewed appeal.

Detectives are investigating alleged serious crimes which may have occurred at the Causeway Dental Implant Clinic in Ballymoney over a number of years and at Bangor West Dental and Implant Clinic in Bangor between 2005 and 2008. The investigation does not involve any other member of staff at the clinics.

Officers are asking patients if they have any information that may assist the inquiry team or if they have concerns. Police have revealed that a number of patients have already come forward and this latest renewed appeal is to ensure that ‘every possible step has been taken to identify all victims in this part of the investigation’.

Police say any contact will be treated with the utmost confidentiality.

Howell, who has 10 children, is in custody charged with the murders of his wife Lesley, 50, and Trevor Buchanan. Their bodies were found in a car filled with carbon monoxide fumes in Castlerock in May 1991.

Oasis fills the gaps

The contract will provide access for 15,000 patients

Dr Cockcroft backs e-learning

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Editorial comment

Seeing the light

A friend said last week that her permanently and happily unemployed friend and her children regularly fly out to Florida for holidays at Disneyland. ‘How she does it when she doesn’t have a job I just don’t know,’ she said. But when she added up her friend’s tax credits, council tax benefits, plus the rest of the frills, it all became crystal clear. Now don’t get me wrong – there are plenty of people out there struggling to scrape by on benefits and deserve every penny and some, but there are also others who are positively living the life of O’Riley. So who’s paying for it all?

High earning go-getters have always been penalised by Mr Brown to some degree, but introducing these new taxes is like saying ‘bring on the brain-drain now’. For getting taxed to the hilt is hardly going to motivate the nation to work hard and build better businesses. Earning £100k in the UK is really not a lot these days – the average family household needs at least this to pay the mortgage, meet spiralling bills and put food on the table. So is having a holiday so much to ask after grafting the hours away day in, and day out in the practice? Apparently so, according to the Chancellor. Ok so he hasn’t said as much but actions speak far louder than words don’t they.

Thatcher’s children were all geared up to work hard and think about earning money and lots of it. She may have taken the milk away, but it didn’t half motivate us to work hard to make sure we earned enough to buy our own pint. But now why bother? For the harder we work, the less we earn. What a wonderful way to kick-start an ailing economy.

If so don’t hesitate to write to: The Editor, Dental Tribune UK Ltd, 4th Floor, Treasure House, 19-21 Hatton Garden, London, EC1N 8BA. Or email: penny@dentaltribuneuk.com

House raffle is extended

A dental technician, who put his £490,000 house up for sale in a £25 raffle, has extended the competition for a further three months, following poor ticket sales.

Stephen and Caroline Sickelmore are hoping to sell their £490,000 four-bedroom home in Devon, through a raffle. Tickets cost £25 each and if the couple sell all their tickets, they will get £675,000.

The winner will also get other benefits including their stamp duty paid, legal fees and a contribution towards moving expenses, plus an up-front payment of 12 months’ council tax of £1,700 for the Band E property. The detached Summer Breeze in Dawlish, comes with sea views, split-level design and three bathrooms.

The couple have promised to donate 3.6 per cent of the prize fund, up to £25,000, to Force cancer charity in Exeter. However, the couple have only sold 1,523 of the tickets since the raffle began in January. They have now decided to extend the competition for a further three months to the 24 July ‘to ensure we give the competition the chance of selling all of the tickets’.

People can buy tickets from the couple’s website where they have to answer three questions correctly as part of their entry to the draw.

To find out more, visit website www.summerbreezecompetition.co.uk