GDPUK members have been busy turning their attention to a clinical topic: one colleague was auditing his radiographs and wanted to define the term ‘coned off’ when examining a film. Other colleagues joined in, commenting on the criteria for examining radiographs written for general radiography. They talked about what happens when examining say, a leg, suggesting that it is difficult to miss the limb with the beam, whereas taking a periapical to show all of a lower third molar in a gagging patient with a large tongue is another matter. Perhaps the guidelines and requirements for an audit should be rewritten for dentistry and not based on other parts of the body that are easier to access?

Professor Jimmy Steele’s around-the-country road-show has been followed in some detail on GDPUK. GDPUK members have been present at each meeting and have written personal reports of the events. The general gist of each meeting is the same, but the nuances and what is said are different each time. Attendance overall seemed to be quite low, considering the great malcontent, and this being a well advertised way to have one’s say to someone writing a major report. There was some criticism of the location and timings of the meetings, but most dentists remain busy working to reach those UDA targets.

How the forthcoming Steele report may be read and used by the politicians was talked about. The report might or might not be published around the time of the LDC conference in mid June. If the report wishes to keep UDAs, this will be a vindication for the politicians. If the report advises scrapping the system, this will be delayed until after the next election.

Some original research caught the interest of GDPUK posters when it was reported that the most common name for a dentist in the USA is Dennis – the headline reading ‘Dennis the Dentist’. The newspaper reporting this story found it to be hilarious, but this did not raise a laugh here in Britain, probably due to the fact that we pronounce every letter in the word ‘dentist’.

And on a final note, the forum saw a topic titled: Yorkshire dentist injecting patients with Ecstasy… it’s called Eee bah gum.