BADN talks money
The British Association of Dental Nurses calls for all dental nurses to take part in its salary survey

BADN’s proposed survey, which is carried out on line, asks dental nurses about their salary, how they are paid, what additional benefits their employer provides and about their specific domestic circumstances. BADN will then use the collated information to present a case to the General Dental Council for lowering the annual retention fee paid by dental nurses.

We are receiving many calls at the BADN office from dental nurses – particularly those who work part time – who find that the £96 annual registration fee is more than they can afford,’ says BADN president Angie McBain.

She continues: ‘BADN participated in the GDC’s consultation exercise on the registration fee and advised that the fee charged to dental nurses should be lowered considerably; and that registrants who work part time should charged a lower fee. However, the response we received from the GDC was that there is insufficient evidence to suggest that changes to the fees policy or the current fee structure are necessary at present.

‘A dental nurse working full time on minimum wage earns around £9,600 a year before tax and pays a £96 registration fee. In comparison, a dentist (average earnings £89,000 (1) before tax) pays £438. So, we decided to gather evidence on dental nurse salaries in the UK to present to the GDC.’

How to participate
Anyone who has attended a BADN event over the last few years has been sent an email invitation to participate in the survey. Everyone else can access the survey through a link on the ‘Latest News’ page of the BADN website www.badn.org.uk, or through a link on the BADN page on Facebook. Participants can then forward an invitation to participate to colleagues.

‘All dental nurses in the UK are encouraged to participate in this survey,’ says Angie. ‘You don’t have to be a BADN member, and the more dental nurses add their information, the more viable our case will be.’

(1) NHS Information Centre – average earnings of all self employed dentists (before tax) for year 2007-08