S|D|A|C|a|b|o|l|i|t|i|o|n| i|s| ‘|m|i|s|g|u|id|e|d’

The British Dental Associ-
ation. (BDA) has written
to the Secretary of State
for Health, Alan Johnson urging
him to reconsider the decision
to abolish the Standing Dental
Advisory Committee. (SDAC)

The letter from the BDA’s
chair of the executive board sent
earlier this month, voices the
association’s ‘deep concerns’ at
the decision, particularly in light
of overwhelming support for the
continuation and strengthening
of the committee in responses
to the consultation on the issue.

Susie Sanderson said: ‘We
believe the decision to abolish
the SDAC to be a misguided one
that goes against a strong con-
sensus of opinion across differ-
ent branches of the profession.
The committee offered an effec-
tive method of canvassing the
whole spectrum of the profes-
sion including those on the
frontline of patient care. One of
the key principles of the BDA
Next Stage Review is the promo-
tion of a quality service devel-
oped with full professional
engagement. This decision
appears to be contrary to that
principle. We urge the Secretary
of State to reconsider the deci-
sion and guarantee the future of
a committee which is an invalu-
able source of expert consensus
in dentistry.’

Dr Sanderson added that the
SDAC, with its professional au-
thority and strong links to hands-
on patient care was very much in
line with the principle of provid-
ing a quality dental service with
full professional engagement
and would make an invaluable
contribution to discussions and
planning about the future of NHS
dentistry.

She stressed that one of the
SDAC’s great strengths was its
ability to draw together different
strands of the profession, in-
cluding dental care profession-
als engaged in the day-to-day
treatment of patients as well
people involved in academia
and regulation. Accordingly,
the body was able to anticipate
developments in the sector and
produce balanced, strategic
thought, together with informed
advice.

Dr Cockcroft said: ‘The SDAC
has not met for two years and does
not advise on policy around con-
tacts, but on clinical matters. We
have produced a series of docu-
ments by bringing together ex-
erts, which is a much better
method. The BDA has provided us
with the people with expertise.’

He said the Secretary of State
is going to reply to the statement
from the BDA.

The Standing Dental Advi-
sory Committee was established
in the NHS Act 1946 and set up in
1949 as one of nine bodies to ad-
vise on matters relating to serv-
ices provided under the act. The
remit of the committee is to ad-
vise the Secretary of State on mat-
ters relating to the services with
which the committee is con-
cerned, as it sees fit, as well as
questions referred to them by the
Secretary of State.

Off-white teeth
A national survey has reported
that men from Leeds regard
whitening as the most popular
method of dealing with teeth,
marks of four out of 10.

The dental health questionnaire
showed that men in the North-
east of England assessed their
teeth as having some of
the worst shade, compared with 7.4 among those
in the city who took part in the sur-
vey. Every male participant from
the city who took part in the sur-
vey confessed that they would
be willing to chair a meeting
on the issue.

The DH has made increasing
money available to dentists
for cosmetic treatments, but
has warned that dentists
may be fined if they offer
whitening to patients who
are not 18.

‘We are therefore uncon-
vinced that the alternatives pro-
posed would ensure that the
views, opinions and the expertise
of the general body of the profes-
sion, were properly reflected.’

On the SDAC’s future, the
consultation document states
that because ad hoc committees
are time-limited and subject spe-
cific, they make fewer demands
than standing committees, from
both expert members and the
secretarial staff who support
them.

Big salaries
The NHS Information Centre
says that dentists are earning
more money than ever, but at
what cost to the patients?

First class
Being good at what you do is just
going to happen - it is not
enough anymore - you have to
be truly outstanding or your
business will die.

Worker’s rights
There are many reasons why you
could end up in court and the
penalties for not working legally
can be disastrous.

Roots matter
Endodontics and pain go hand in
hand for some people, but with
a bit of TLC you can make a big
difference.
Drop-ins for fluoridation consultation

Residents and workers in those areas of Southam- pton which might receive fluoridated water can attend a series of drop-in events during the public consultation period. The sessions are organised by South Central Strategic Health Authority (SHA) and begin in Bitterne on Thursday, September 18. Interested parties are invited to talk to experts and give feedback on the controversial proposal. There are display boards with detailed information, as well as the consultation documents and other explanatory literature.

The SHA claims it is independently overseeing the consultation to help people understand the arguments for and against fluoridation. However, anti-fluoride campaigners are not allowed to give their own presentations at the sessions leading to claims of bias against the health authority.

Chairman of Hampshire against Fluoridation John Spoffittswoode said the outright refusal by the SHA to let his organisation make their own presentations at the drop-in events gave weight to the notion that the consultation was a ‘sham’.

He said the material produced to date by the health authorities was one-sided and a false picture about the true effects of fluoride. It did not take into account other research which showed that fluoride could cause serious and negative side-effects on health.

Dental crisis in Lincoln improves

All patients living within a 20-mile radius of Lincoln can now be seen by an NHS dentist, according to the county’s dental service. Since the new contracts were introduced in April 2006, 60,000 county patients have registered with an NHS dentist with new practices recently opened in Sleaford, Grantham and Gainsborough. The only areas in which the waiting lists still need to be reduced are Louth and Mablethorpe.

Before the government introduced the new NHS dental contract in April 2006 when local PCTs began to control dental services, patients’ treatment was based on honesty.

1) Oppose the fluoridation of water on four grounds:

1) There is more than ample evidence to show that fluoridation does not preclude dental decay.
2) Adverse side effects of fluoride-containing compounds beyond the benign side effect of dental fluorosis are well documented.
3) Poor nutrition or poor hygiene = dental decay

2) Adverse side effects of fluoride.

4) Most importantly, oral health is attainable through a combination of good hygiene and the type of nutrition which not only eliminates dental decay but also reduces the chances of acquiring diabetes and pyogenic infections, amongst other diseases.

5) It is a type of nutrition that improves general health, without fail.

This is what we should be striving for, not applying ‘magic bullets’ that may do more harm than good.

Mr Pastoll

Political gripes, dental dilemmas, guest comments, general feedback...

We want to hear from them all.

Toxic burden

Is it not enough that we have MIRS and other superbugs which have been bred by abuse of chemicals on the back of hygiene deficiency? Do we need to add to the toxic burden of people when there is a much simpler and healthier alternative?

The notion that dental decay is somehow a ‘fluoride deficiency’ is one of the greatest lies we have been fed by ‘science’ propagandists. Nutrition and hygiene are the keys to prevention of decay. People in impoverished areas suffer from dental decay due to malnutrition and hygiene deficiency.

Adding fluoride to the water does nothing. It is toxic.

This is a truth that is unpallatable to swallow for it goes against the grain of industry hell-bent on creating new ‘needs’.

I do not agree that water fluoridation has any benefit other than to rid the fertilizer industry of its toxic residues. Fluorosilicic acid is highly toxic waste. It is disposed of in the water supplies under the guise of ‘prevention’.

The scientific evidence on the benefits of fluoride is flawed, being biased and funded by industrialist benefactors. It is long documented that some ‘optimally fluoridated’ areas even have higher incidents of dental decay than non fluoridated areas.

Six figure salaries for dentists revealed

The number of people seen by NHS dental practitioners has dropped by about one million since the contract was introduced.

In July, the Commons Select Committee on Health said that the Department of Health (DoH) had gone back on its words by not bringing about improved access to dentists, because the amount of complex treatments such as crowns, bridges and dentures had fallen by 57 per cent since the contract’s introduction. The number of root canal treatments fell by 45 per cent in England and Wales, although it rose in Scotland, where the contract was not brought in. There has been widespread criticism that the scheme was inadequately piloted before being introduced.

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