ARF - Your Views

We asked for your comments, and we got them...

I find it despicable that we pay for the running of this inept organisation and have no say as to how they are run or how they spend my money. And in addition they have no real teeth, or are about to become edentulous, when the new COJ thing takes over, which an issue that is beyond imagination.

Brian Rubin, East Sussex

When the rise in ARF happened a few years ago, I was incensed and wrote to the GDC. I explained that I work part-time in Community Dental Services - why should I pay the same registration fee as a GP working full-time in private practice probably earning five or six times my salary! I received a standard letter from the GDC saying that they had no facilities to pro rata the fee for part-time staff. As many women are part-time because of having families etc, I feel this is discrimination against women. I still feel very angry about this stupid ruling.

Dr Cate Jarrold, Aldershot

What are we paying for? It seems that bureaucracy has gone mad. How can they warrant a rise of 25 per cent in times of recession when dentists are finding a lower footfall into their practices with addition of CQC inspection at a cost to the practice of around £1,500 (what registered laser practices have been paying)? For many practices this will have an effect on their ability to cover the cost of RCN registration fees and the lack of decent wages for dental nurses could very well drive more dental nurses away from the profession.

Flustered Practice Manager

In my opinion, the increase in GDC retention fees is a reflection of their lack of innovation in dealing with increased complaints, and a failure to budget correctly. The GDC should be pursuing costs against those people who make frivolous complaints, and using the monies acquired to balance the budget. They’ve already grabbed millions from dental nurses and other DCPs, and yet still claim it’s not enough. Something is very wrong with that. It feels to most dentists that we are being forced to pay for a body which likes to punish us whenever it can. The voice of the public drowns out the voice of the profession, the majority of who are caring and conscientious and doesn’t need a big stick to put patients’ interest first.

I suppose the extra money will come in useful for their misguided and malicious campaign to prevent dentists using the courtesy title Dr!

Dr Martin K Edwards, Dental Surgeon

I think it is absolutely disgraceful that the GDC have put the ARF up for DCPs. As we are all aware, DCPs are made up of dental hygienists, therapists, technicians and dental nurses; all of whom earn differing amounts of money. Why should dental nurses, most of whom earn nothing compared to the likes of dental hygienists and therapists, have to pay the same ARF?

The GDC will not even consider, it seems, a pay monthly scheme for the ARF, even though this would greatly reduce the burden of paying the now £120 out of our meagre pay packets. Surely the GDC should come to some sort of an arrangement where the ARF is based on the registrant’s earnings or at least lowered for dental nurses? The rising cost of the ARF as well as indemnity insurance, the cost of CPD and the lack of decent wages for dental nurses could very well drive more dental nurses away from the profession.

Flustered Practice Manager

This is nothing but extortion and we are paying for the failings/incompetence within the GDC as well as those DCPs who did not re-register this year. The GDC need to get their act together and manage their finances, as we have to do in our businesses. Shame we cannot put up our prices by 35 per cent! My anger cannot be put into words.

Name and address supplied

We are paying for the mismanagement of the GDC over the past few years. Every project they have undertaken has become unnecessarily complex and expensive. Revalidation should be dumped before it gets completely out of hand.

Jenny Pinder

On my wages I can barely afford the current fee. As this is coming into force 2011 I think it would be a good idea if GDC introduced the option paying this in monthly instalments via direct debit. You can pay pretty much everything else (car insurance, house insurance etc) via instalments so I think this option would be welcomed. I know there are a lot of DCPs on a lower wage than me who would struggle and the new fees could possibly make people think twice about choosing dentistry as their chosen career.

Kate Powell

Why has the GDC not yet decided what the registration should be for their enforced membership? They are waiting to see what the GDC can get away with. Today I have to take time out to go to a compulsory talk about our confidentiality. No fee for this, but no compensation for loss of UDA time etc. Retirement? Foreign climes? Anything! I am a clinician, get me out of here!

Peter F-Jones

Somebody please outline the justification for this 51 per cent increase for the ARF if there are fees payable for another regulatory body on the way. Is the wine cellar looking empty at the GDC?

Name and address supplied

Is it reasonable? The industry is in a recession and we are being asked to pay more. I do think that as the GDC is a monopoly the case for increase of its ARF should be referred to the trade’s commission, I know that I personally have not received any increase in revenue this year and it will be financially difficult for the average dental technician to pay these fees.

Name and address supplied

It’s a disgrace! The GDC are helping themselves to a 51 per cent pay increase at a time when everybody else is tightening their belts.

The GDC already charge more than the General Medical Council, who charge £420 per annum (www.gmc-uk.org/documents/2009-27050.pdf). The highlights point to lavish central London offices. I think it is absolutely disgraceful the GDC need to get their act together and manage their finances.

Name and address supplied

A rise of 25 per cent in the ARF is appalling for dental nurses. Unlike hygienists and technicians the salary scale of qualified dental nurses is still dreadfull and an insult after working for two years - attending a course and working in their own time, to be able to register.

Name and address supplied

Why has there been nowhere else for the last few years? It amazed me to find out that they still have a final salary pension scheme - even open to new recruits. I’m not sure how pleased most dentists would be to realise this is how the ARF is spent.

This isn’t professional self-regulation - it’s difficult to describe their behaviour using civilised language! Maybe it’s time to abandon “self-regulation” and allow the profession to be regulated more sensibly by the HPC. I for one can find better ways to spend £500 per annum than someone else’s pension scheme, expenses, and flashy offices.

Name and address supplied

A rise of 25 per cent in the ARF is appalling for dental nurses. Unlike hygienists and technicians the salary scale of qualified dental nurses is still dreadful and an insult after working for two years - attending a course and working in their own time, to be able to register.

Name and address supplied

Barbara Jones, RDH

The Art of Dentistry is about to change...

For further details on this great offer go to: www.velopex.com

Please see (left tissue liner) & Aquagard (hard tissue fluid abrasion)

£4,999

VAT