The government has announced an extra £11m of funding for dental hospitals in England to fund new IT systems to support the training of dental students.

The funding is part of a joint initiative by the Department of Health, NHS Connecting for Health and the Dental IT programme board.

Deputy Chief Dental Officer, Tony Jenner said: ‘This extra funding reinforces the government’s commitment to supporting dental hospitals and expanding the dental workforce.

A spokesperson for Dentaid said: ‘A primitive technique is usually employed to gouge out the baby teeth involving unsterile knives, bicycle spokes, finger nails or other bizarre and inappropriate instruments.

The teeth are removed because the people believe the soft white buds of the new teeth are actually worms in the mouth of the infant. These ‘mouth worms’ are believed to be parasitic and fever causing so if the child has an illness, the baby teeth are blamed.

A group of volunteers in association with Christian Relief Uganda, where baby teeth are usually employed to gouge out by village healers for a fee. It is also performed by parents, community elders and even midwives.’

The consequences of this Infant Oral Mutilation (IOM) can be severe pain, serious oral health complications and, not infrequently, death.

Infants often suffer from future facial disfigurement, damage to the gums and the permanent teeth following the removal of their health deciduous teeth.

Dentaid has devised a trial Dentaid project to combat IOM.

If you are interested in getting involved with this campaign please contact Nicky Triance on 01794 325146 or email nicky@dentaid.org. Detailed information can also be found at www.dentaid.org.