CQC fee consultation finally hits the headlines

CQC dominates profession and politics as consultation opens and questions are asked in Westminster

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has launched a consultation on the fees it proposes to charge providers of health and adult social care. These fees intend to cover CQC’s work in registering providers and monitoring their compliance with essential levels of safety and quality.

The British Dental Association (BDA) has warned that the proposed fees come just months after figures from the NHS Information Centre revealed that dentists’ expenses are increasing by 76 per cent a year and soon after the General Dental Council revealed significant increases in its fees for registration.

John Milne, Chair of the BDA’s General Dental Practice Committee, said: “Dental practices are already facing soaring expenses. Registration fees at the levels set out in this consultation will serve only to exacerbate the problems dentists across England are already facing. The ability of practices to invest in the staff and equipment that deliver patient care will be further harmed by the imposition of such exorbitant fees.”

Word in Westminster

The consultations, however, are not being accepted quietly. Dentists across the country have been canvassing MPs to scrap CQC registration and in Parliament this week a series of questions on CQC were raised in the House of Lords.

The consultation runs until January 2011. A further consultation will be carried out in 2011 before providers of NHS primary medical services.

Smile-on are organising a webinar on the issue of CQC hosted by Raj Rattan on December 1st. Email info@smile-on.com for more information.