Dental Tribune survey sees majority of British dentists rejecting Brexit

More than half would vote against the United Kingdom leaving the EU

By DTI

LONDON, UK: Were it up to dentists, the UK would remain a member of the European Union after the national referendum in June. According to an online survey conducted among Dental Tribune Online readers between February and March this year, a slight majority of dental professionals would vote for staying in the EU rather than leaving it.

After analysing the results of the poll, Dental Tribune found that more than 55 per cent of dentists who participated in the survey intended voting against Britain leaving the EU, while 44 per cent were in favour of a Brexit.

Less than 1 per cent were still undecided on the issue, but perceived an overall more negative future should Britain decide to split from the Union.

Similar responses were given by the participants when asked whether a Brexit would have positive or negative consequences for the country. A larger share of dentists, however, replied “I do not know” to this question.

The overall majority of respondents to the survey said they would definitely vote in the referendum. Only one in ten did not intend to participate in it.

The poll was conducted among 16,000 recipients of the Dental Tribune UK & Ireland weekly newsletter, with almost half of all replies from dentists in southern England, particularly London, which made up almost 20 per cent of the survey respondents. There was less participation by dentists from the northern regions, with slightly less than 30 per cent taking part in the poll. Only one in ten respondents were from the Midlands.

Dentists from Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, who made up 12 per cent of the participants in the poll, were split, with almost the same number voting for the Brexit as voting against it.

Almost one-third of those who responded to the survey said they were in private practice, while one-quarter said they were employed in the National Health Service. Forty per cent worked in practices that offered both NHS and private dental care services.

Regarding the age of the respondents, more than half were between 30 and 50 years old, followed by a large group aged 50 to 60.

Britons have to decide on 23 June whether they want the UK to remain a member of the EU. Mirroring the results of the Dental Tribune survey, the latest national polls indicate that the slight majority of the population will vote to stay in the UK. However, 10 per cent of eligible voters have still not decided which way to vote.

Prominent political and economic figures argue that accession to the EU will have widespread negative consequences for the UK.

Profits of private practices leap over those of NHS in 2015

Eight per cent rise a direct result in fee income

By DTI

LONDON, UK: For the first time in over a decade, private dental practices in the UK have achieved greater profits last year than their NHS counterparts. On average, profits in private dentistry increased to £40,229 per principal according to the latest figures released by the National Association of Specialist Dental Accountants and Lawyers (NASDAL), approximately £10,000 more than reported by NHS practices.

The last time private practices were more profitable was in 2004/2005. The leap is a direct result of an 8 per cent rise in fee income, compared with NHS practices, whose income through fees only grew by 4 per cent last year.

Overall, all types of practices experienced a sustained recovery of profitability in 2015 compared with 2014, according to Humphrey & Co partner Ian Simpson, who presented the figures on behalf of NASDAL on Tuesday.

However, Associates’ profits decreased slightly last year and this could be attributed to increased insurance and subscription costs, he said.

“It’s positive to see that the UK dental market has continued to grow at a rate of around 4.4 per cent with relatively unchanged costs and prolonged recovery in profitability,” NASDAL Chairman Nick Ledingham remarked.

The figures were collected through tax reports and accounts provided by accountant members of NASDAL across the UK. They are published annually in March and reflect the finances of dental practices and dentists for the most recent tax year, according to the association.