Regulations, regulations
Tony Jacobs discusses the hot topics of the dental profession

Feelings have been riding high regarding the methods and conduct of the regulators of the dental profession, something that was just not the case a few years ago. To me it is not the fact the levels of respect to institutions have changed, it is that so many methods and operations of our regulators have become illogical these days, against the morals and values of so many of the profession.

I feel the GDC have done some things to address dentists’ feelings, the ARF has risen, but there seem to be steps being taken to prevent the New Year’s administrative removal from the register if bank account or cheque payment goes astray. On a much more important level, an august and respected body such as Dental Protection has gone on record to criticise the methods of the Professional Conduct Committee of the GDC. This article, in a DPL publication, was read widely, discussed and dissected and colleagues on GDPUK definitely made their feelings known about the GDC’s conduct Committees and the way cases are taken forward and tried.

Talking of regulators, this part of my GDPUK column does not even start to capture the professionals’ feelings of dismay and fear of the lack of both credibility and trust in the CQC. In the week the CQC sent out 4,000 emails to the wrong people, it became more and more clear that no-one can believe a single word communicated by the CQC, either by email, on paper or on the telephone. Their goals and not just moving, they are on a perpetual roundabout!
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At least GDPUK has a role in allowing colleagues to share news as it develops, to reassure one another the nightmare may soon be over, and to share the responses framed by the various representative organisations. Those organisations themselves may base some of their response on the outcry on GDPUK, but they will never tell us that. It must be reassuring for the leaders of those organisations to review the vox pop as shown on the site, and to develop policy which echoes this.

There has been so much else to follow this month; here is a small sample.

A variety of surgery key boards have been discussed, some are more clinical appearance, and there is a wide variety of prices, for a few pounds almost disposable to the higher quality shiny white ones.

One was recommended which is not just washable, it’s dishwasher proof.

A puzzling topic, which did not get a full answer, but it seems a worldwide regulation that pilots cannot fly for 24 hours after having an LA. Have you heard of this? No-one seems to know why.

We have discussed the change in the pattern of the genders of students admitted to dental schools. We wonder how this will affect the profession in the coming years, and this lead a number of colleagues to reminiscence about their days as students. One GDPUK colleague was awarded a chair as Associate Professor, and a friend of his from student days remembered an answer given by the now professor as to treatment of a snail track ulcer in the palate – “cut it out with an air rotor” said the star pupil!

About the author
Tony Jacobs, 54, is a GDP in Manchester, in practice with partner Steve Lazarus at 406 Dental. Tony founded GDPUK in 1997, and the website now has over 11,500 unique visitors each month, who make 50,000 visits and create over 2 million pages on the site every month. Tony is certain GDPUK.com is the liveliest and most topical UK dental website.