

Fluoride schemes Look before you leap

Story continued from front cover

Ms Milton said: 'We propose that local authorities should conduct consultations and ascertain public opinion on proposals for new fluoridation schemes.'

In what will be seen as a centralising measure, the minister also revealed that 'contracts for existing (and any new) schemes will become the responsibility of the secretary of state.'

Meanwhile, the battlelines have been drawn in Hampshire by the decision, on 31 March, by the South Central Strategic Health Authority (SHA) to ask Southern Water to proceed with the fluoridation.

The flagship Health and Social Care Bill will axe the 10 SHAs by 2012 and the 150 primary care trusts by 2013, as the government wages war on NHS 'bureaucracy'.

However, the Bill is now in crisis after David Cameron slammed the brakes on its progress following a fierce public backlash – with 'significant changes' promised next month.

1. 'A Systematic Review of Water Fluoridation', commissioned by the DH from the University of York in 1999 and published in 2000.

Our regular *Sold!* feature continues this issue, adding more information to *Dentistry* magazine's ongoing look at the commercial property market for dentists in the UK.

Our featured practices represent a true cross-section of dental practice sale prices – from multiple-surgery NHS practices in London to smaller, fully-private concerns in Wales.

The continued uncertainty and falling prices in the housing market have made it even more crucial for buyers and sellers alike to be prepared. The same is just as true for the commercial property that makes up a dental practice.

Our ongoing guide is essential reading for any dentist with even a passing interest in selling their practice or buying a new one.

Brought to you by the team at Frank Taylor and Associates, these numbers are taken from completed practice sales carried out on the open market. They are both up to date and accurate – and a fair reflection of the economic reality facing dentists every day.



SOLD!

Real practices. Real prices. Your guide to the dental property market in the UK.

In association with



Cheshire

Urban practice
Freehold

3 surgeries

Mainly NHS contract

Gross per annum £360,000

Purchase price £415,000

South East

Urban practice

Leasehold

3 surgeries (only 1 fully equipped and in use)

Private practice

Gross per annum £20,000

Purchase price £60,000

Greater London

City practice

Leasehold

5 surgeries

NHS practice

Gross per annum £1,300,000

Purchase price £1,750,000

Wales

City practice

Leasehold

2 surgeries

Private practice

Gross per annum £339,000

Purchase price £251,901

South

Seaside town practice

Freehold

4 surgeries

Mixed practice, mainly NHS

Gross per annum £750,000

Purchase price £1,277,354

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Devon dentist embracing pilots

An NHS dentist from Devon has said he is looking forward to taking part in the upcoming pilot scheme that will help develop the new contract.

Andrew Curtis, from Castle View surgery in Tiverton, is one of 62 dentists in England chosen to participate in the scheme, which will see him paid for the quality of his work rather than the quantity.

The pilot will begin in the summer and continue for 12 months. Access to NHS dentists in Devon has improved since the 2006 contract, with 61,000 more patients being seen, but some dentists have claimed that the target-driven payment contract has left little time to teach patients about oral hygiene or enable them to focus on patients' long-term oral health.

Dr Curtis told BBC News: 'From a dentist's point of view, the drawback is that we're on a treadmill and we're always target driven. We do provide a very high quality standard of care, but we are under pressure.'

'With that pressure removed, we should be able to focus more on prevention and quality of treatment.'

Three slightly different models will be piloted across England in order to provide information and evidence on various aspects to help form the new contract.

Health minister Lord Howe has said: 'We all want good teeth and good oral hygiene. That's why we want our dentists to get paid for the quality of treatment they provide rather than for the number of treatments.'