

Counsel from the Council

Assistant director of registration and operational excellence at the General Dental Council, Gurvinder Soomal, talks DCPs through the best way to pay their Annual Retention Fee

As most of you are hopefully already aware, it's now time for dental care professionals (DCPs) across the UK to pay their Annual Retention Fee. In fact, by now you should have already had a reminder that the payment period has started. It runs from the 23 May to 31 July 2011.

As in previous years, you will be able to make your payment in various ways:

- Via direct debit, which can be set-up on the eGDC website or by completing a form; <http://www.gdc-uk.org/DentalProfessionals/Fees/Pages/Direct-Debit.aspx>
- Via payment card on the eGDC website (www.eGDC-uk.org);
- Via payment card on the payment phone line (0800 197 4610);
- Via cheque, this will need to be returned in the freepost envelope you receive with the payment form.

If you have any problems with your payment, you

can also contact the ARF helpline on 0800 1777 965. It's important to pay on time, because if you miss the deadline you will be removed from our register and you won't be able to work until you complete our restoration process.

You're probably aware that in September last year the GDC reluctantly voted to increase your ARF to £120 for this year – an increase of just over £2 per month. This was not an easy decision to make, but after dipping into our reserves in 2010 and making cutbacks on staff in some areas to balance our increasing costs, we had to make some difficult choices.

The ARF makes up nearly our entire funding and we have to ensure that we have enough money to carry out our statutory duty. There is a cost to regulation and it's currently going up. The increase is essential for us to deliver our key purpose.

The corporate strategy agreed by Council last year

commits us to delivering efficient regulation and I would like to assure *Dentistry* readers that in line with that we will strive to be even more assiduous at monitoring our costs and identifying as many efficiencies as we can – consistent with doing our statutory work properly.

It is the job of the GDC to protect patients, and we do this by registering dentists, specialists and dental care professionals in the UK and by taking action through our fitness-to-practise procedures when something goes wrong. In the last two years the number of people on our registers has almost doubled to more than 96,000.


I appreciate that our function and how we are funded is a hot topic of debate, but we are committed to being open and accountable about how we spend your money. Our annual reports are laid before Parliament, stating how we generate our income and how we spend it.

For more information, visit www.gdc-uk.org.

The big sell

This month, *Dentistry* magazine is proud to bring you another round-up of dental practice sales from across the country as part of our regular, ongoing feature, *Sold!*

A collection of real-life sales figures, this feature gives you an accurate, up-to-date barometer of the state of the dental property market in the UK. These are all genuine figures taken from completed sales on the open market, and collated by the team at Frank Taylor and Associates.



SOLD!

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

In association with



Home counties
 Urban practice, freehold
 3 surgeries, private practice
 Gross per annum £185,000
 Purchase price £200,000


South London border
 Urban practice, long leasehold
 2 surgeries (only 1 fully equipped and in use), private practice
 Gross per annum £95,000
 Purchase price £330,000

North West
 Rural practice, freehold
 2 surgeries, private with large capitation scheme
 Gross per annum £202,000
 Purchase price £395,000

East Midlands
 City practice, freehold
 2 surgeries, mixed practice
 Gross per annum £505,000
 Purchase price £620,000

Northamptonshire
 Small town practice, freehold
 1 surgery, mixed practice, mainly NHS
 Gross per annum £166,000
 Purchase Price achieved, £375,000


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