Scottish Council met on Thursday 16 August 2018 at the DoubleTree by Hilton, Dunblane Hydro.

1. **Meetings with the Chief Dental Officer and Cabinet Secretary for Health & Sport**

Representatives from the BDA’s Scottish Council will meet with the Chief Dental Officer on Monday 27 August. The main item for discussion will be the Scottish Government’s Oral Health Improvement Plan (OHIP) and its implementation and funding. Council representatives will also meet with Jeane Freeman, Cabinet Secretary for Health & Sport, on Wednesday 12 September 2018 at the Scottish Parliament. Discussion items include OHIP proposals around domiciliary care, dentists’ pay, paediatric extractions under general anaesthetic, and IT strategy.

2. **Scottish Government Oral Health Improvement Plan**

BDA Scotland recently published a series of blogs about the plan, including the report of the survey of dentists’ views of the plan’s proposals, and an open letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Health & Sport about funding specific aspects of the plan. There was little progress to report on the implementation of the plan, including the Scottish Government’s initial priorities. The recent report on the clinical effectiveness of scale and polish treatments was noted, and further assessment of the report’s findings will be carried out.

3. **Doctors’ and Dentists’ Review Body**

The UK pay review body published its report on dentists’ pay on 24 July 2018. BDA Scotland has written to Scottish Government to ask it to clarify how it will use the report’s recommendations to increase pay for Scotland’s dentists. The UK Government has announced that the pay of GDPs in England will be uplifted by 2% from 1 October, and expenses will be increased by 3% backdated to 1 April 2018. Salaried dentists’ pay will also be uplifted by 2% from 1 October. BDA Scotland has called for an uplift for dentists in Scotland that at least approaches 9% over 3 years, to be on a par with the increase recently awarded to Agenda for Change staff. BDA Scotland will keep members apprised of developments.

4. **BDA Scotland Scottish Parliament Oral Cancer Event**

BDA Scotland will hold an event at the Scottish Parliament on Tuesday 13 November 2018 to raise awareness of mouth cancer. Anas Sarwar MSP, Shadow Health Spokesperson, Scottish Labour, has agreed to sponsor the event which will link in with Mouth Cancer Action Month in November. The BDA Scotland Oral Cancer Working Group is also developing a referral pathway and an oral cancer plan.

5. **Minamata Convention on Amalgam**

An EU Directive placed a legally-binding obligation to terminate the use of dental amalgam in deciduous teeth for children under 15 years of age and for pregnant and breastfeeding women from 1 July 2018. Further information can be found at: http://www.sdcep.org.uk/published-guidance/dental-amalgam/
Scottish Government issued PCA(2018)(D)8 and Memorandum on the ‘Phasing down of Dental Amalgam’ on 15 June 2018 which listed the revised fees for non-amalgam restorations: [http://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/pca/PCA2018(D)08.pdf](http://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/pca/PCA2018(D)08.pdf)

The PCA and Amendment No 138 to the SDR refer to ‘resin’ restorations. Following a number of recent queries from members, BDA Scotland has secured clarification from Scottish Government and Practitioner Services Division that ‘resin’ restorations are defined as:

*Composite resin, or resin-modified glass ionomer restorative material.*


More information and guidance on dental amalgam can be found on the [BDA website](http://www.bda.org).

7. **General Dental Council**

BDA representatives met with GDC members and senior officials in June to discuss issues of concern to the BDA, including the GDC’s poor performance and overfunding. The BDA has invited the GDC Director of Fitness to Practice to meet with Council members later this year to discuss the GDC’s latest performance.

7. **HPV Vaccination**

BDA Scotland and Scottish Council members welcomed [Scottish Government’s commitment to funding the HPV vaccination programme](https://www.scottishdental.org/amendment-no-138-to-statement-of-dental-remuneration-sdr/) for boys in Scotland. HPV is a key risk factor for oral cancer, and this year 30,000 boys in Scotland have gone unprotected, so this is welcome news.

8. **Paediatric Extractions by General Anaesthetic – Extended Waiting Times**

BDA Scotland is concerned that waiting times for paediatric extractions by general anaesthetic are still too long. Both the Scottish Dental Practice Committee and the Scottish Public Dental Service Committee are pursuing the issue. At the Scottish Conference of LDGs in April, the Chair of SDPC had asked the then Cabinet Secretary for Health & Sport about the extended waiting times in some NHS Boards and the lack of response to BDA Scotland’s request to resolve the issue. Ms Robison was concerned to hear that children can wait up to six months for treatment whilst in pain and gave her assurance that if the matter required to be escalated to her office, she would personally intervene. BDA Scotland is conducting a survey on behalf of SPDSC to request information on waiting times across all NHS Boards in Scotland.

9. **Consultations**

The BDA has responded to several consultations. Copies of the responses can be found at: [https://www.bda.org/scottishcouncil-consultations](https://www.bda.org/scottishcouncil-consultations)

10. **BDA Scottish Dental Conference & Exhibition**

The BDA [Scottish Dental Conference and Exhibition](https://www.bda.org/scottishdentalconference) will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Glasgow on Friday 7 September 2018.

11. **Arrangements for the Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on 13 December 2018 at 09:30hrs at DoubleTree by Hilton, Dunblane Hydro.

Robert Donald
Chair, Scottish Council
August 2018