We’ve got you covered
IMPACT REPORT 2020-2021

Kimberly MacGregor - Dental Rooms, Wimbledon Village
This year your support has been more than symbolic; in the face of a unique threat, we have moved forward together and have continued to fight for the profession and to face challenges head on.

Our focus has been:

- Communicating effectively with members and the profession
- Developing resources to ease the pressure of practice management
- Campaigning for dentists suffering the financial pressures of this past year
- Developing new courses and valued CPD training
- Bringing public dental health back onto the map after a long period of derailment
- Providing additional resources and support for our student dentist members.

Our website has been a primary source of information. Over the year we’ve seen:

- 1.3 million visits to our website
- 9,200 clicks of our most downloaded document: Return to work toolkit building on 2020s 40,000 downloads (England, Scotland, Wales)
- 700,000 page views of our live updates page, covering 1,121 updates
- 70,000 unique views of our COVID-19 FAQs page
- 36,000 views of our videos
- 93 blogs from our key opinion leaders and dentist members, with 161,000 views

Excellent support, information and communication

BDA Live updates has been ‘my go to’ every week. Every Monday I will go through all the live updates and it has kept me up to date with all the new and many developments in dentistry. Am loving the Good Practice newsletters too. Well done to all at The BDA and thank you.
A roadmap to ease COVID-19 restrictions

We saw commitments from all four CDOs following our call to commission the Scottish Dental Clinical Effectiveness Programme (SDCEP), to develop a roadmap for the easing of restrictions. Our focus was on detailing community infection, transmission and vaccination rates; the relevance of AGPs to COVID-19 transmission; the full range and impact of international SOPs; and the impact on oral health inequalities and the dental workforce.

Above inflation uplifts for dentists (at the time of the award)

We successfully negotiated significantly improved pay and holiday entitlement for salaried staff in Northern Ireland, including pay rises for staff of up to 12%, plus an extra day’s holiday each year. The UK government finally confirmed a 3% pay award for 2021-22, backdated to April and received in full; with the Welsh Government quickly confirming the same offer.

Support for students in Scotland facing delayed graduation

After pushing the Scottish Government to financially support those students required to extend studies due to the lack of clinical contact available during the pandemic, they offered a bursary of up to £6,750. We also worked with schools closely across England, Wales and Northern Ireland, with the support of our Student Committee.

Capital funding for ventilation for practices in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland

Restrictions on dental practices meant millions of missed dental treatments and increased pressures on dentists. We’re pleased to have fought for a step in the right direction: a £1.5 million funding scheme in Northern Ireland, a £450,000 funding package for Wales, a revised funding package for NHS dentists in Scotland and a 30% increase to both the General Dental Practice Allowance and summer cap in Scotland.

Cross party opposition to the imposition of activity targets in England

Following our campaign which saw over 1,000 emails from dentists land in MPs’ inboxes, the new activity target dominated a debate in the House of Commons, discussing the impact of COVID-19 on dental services. Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat MPs were almost unanimous in MPs’ inboxes, the new activity target dominated a debate in the House of Commons, discussing the impact of COVID-19 on dental services. Cross party opposition to the imposition of activity targets in England

Stopping in-year GDS clawback in Wales

We successfully campaigned to stop Local Health Boards in Wales from financially penalising practices who in Q1 had not reached a stipulated threshold of 80% fluoride varnish applications for specified groups of NHS patients.

U-turn from the Home Office on plans to introduce unethical and inaccurate dental checks for asylum seekers

We urged Home Secretary Priti Patel to think again on plans to introduce dental checks to establish the age of Channel migrants. We believe it is inappropriate and unethical to take radiographs of people when there is no health benefit for them. X-rays taken ffor a clinically justified reason must not be used for another purpose without the patient’s informed consent and must be carried without coercion and in full knowledge of how the radiograph will be used and by whom.

Exposed the GA backlogs facing children and vulnerable adults

We pushed to ensure equality of access to dental services, so that everyone can maintain good oral health, including adults and children young people with learning disabilities, who often face extra barriers to care. NHS England are now gathering key data to underpin recovery.

No return to UDAs for Wales

and Government commitment to restart the Contract Reform process in England

The Welsh Government heard our concerns and pledged to not reintroduce UDA targets, as NHS England did. Alongside NHS England, we look forward to system reform, exploring how we can make the system work for the profession and patients.

Annual retention fee (ARF) by instalments

It was announced in March, the GDC would permit registrants to pay their ARF by instalments and spread the cost over the course of a year. We were pleased to see that our campaign to highlight this much-needed change finally led to action by our regulator, relieving financial barriers for registrants, particularly those at the outset of the careers.

NHS Flu vaccine programme extended to NHS dental teams in England

On the cusp of flu season and during a global pandemic there should’ve been no debate as to whether dentists are frontline healthcare professionals eligible for vaccinations. We’re relieved to see the Government extend the programme to cover NHS dental teams in England and are pressing for this to be a permanent arrangement, not a one-off.

Changes to payment for parents via surrogacy in Scotland

After we raised the issue with Government, contractors in a surrogacy arrangement were able to be retrospectively granted eligibility for payments. This amendment applied to the changes made to the calculation of maternity, paternity, adoptive leave, and long-term sickness payments in June.

Fair COVID-19 payments for maternity leave dentists

Until June this year, it was particularly unfair on women who had taken maternity leave during the reference period used to calculate payments. Following a campaign backed by us, the fight for fair payments was finally won for all dentists impacted by this issue in Northern Ireland. Thirty-eight dentists will now have seen their FSS payments adjusted and using non-abated figures to calculate maternity leave payments has been made blanket policy.

Increased PPE allocations

After fighting this case for each of the devolved nations, we were pleased to have agreed various extensions and agreements for PPE provisions, subsidies, and reimbursements. The increased cost and severe shortages in PPE supply across the year had only added to the difficulty of managing practice arrangements.

Katie 6 reviews

Great assistance with maternity pay issue

Received comprehensive advice from Joanne at the BDA regarding my maternity leave and pay. I received very quick replies and all information was given very clearly. Very grateful for her assistance as it meant I received my full entitlement. Thank you!
ADVICE AND RESOURCES

9,200 downloads of our return-to-work toolkit (England, Scotland, Wales)

1,229 downloads of our social media templates for 'safe practices'

4,300 downloads of our pregnancy risk assessment form

272 downloads of our new resources on dealing with abusive and challenging patients in Northern Ireland

1,604 total downloads of Chairside podcast since July

3 mediations facilitated (all successful in finding a way forward)

4,982 Health and Safety telephone calls and emails received

5,400 Practice Support and NHS emails received

13,597 Practice Support and NHS telephone calls received

377 member interactions with Employment Relations team

Health Assured

Your membership can give you, your spouse or dependent access to qualified and experienced counsellors, who are ready to listen and help on a wide range of issues including debt management, lawsuits, property or neighbour disputes and more.

Excellent support

I have been a member of the BDA all my working life, but have used their services more frequently in the last few years when I was diagnosed with a long-term health condition working in the community dental service. I have had excellent advice, support and guidance from my representative. I felt like she fought my corner, in ensuring my employers made reasonable adjustments to ensure I could keep working as long as possible, and most importantly she also provided great emotional and psychological support, throughout my time at work and also through the process of ill health retirement. I cannot thank her, and the BDA enough.

A great organisation!

Thank you BDA for always being at the end of the phone/email when you are needed. As an expert member I can always be assured of the best advice. During the Covid pandemic so far you have all excelled!

33 years of membership, and worth every penny

The BDA led me through an unfair dismissal tribunal. They were caring, understanding, always had time for my questions and by the end of the countless emails, telephone conversations, and the tribunal itself, almost felt like friends. Although we didn’t win the case I felt totally supported and was very grateful to everyone involved. Although I can’t describe it as a great experience to go through, everyone I dealt with at the BDA were very knowledgeable, professional and in my eyes wonderful and I am very thankful to them.
Situational Judgment Test online mock exam launched July

We designed a course to help dental students across the UK looking to apply to National Recruitment Dental Foundation Training, helping them practice different scenarios and building confidence in answering SJTs.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion training launched September

We developed a series of six modules providing perspectives and insight to help members and their practices to be more consciously inclusive, considerate and respectful of diversity.

“An excellent course, thoroughly modern and fit for our current societal changes. I’ve learned so much.”
– Member dentist

“I have found this very interesting as I am a dentist who lives with a disability, and I have endured discrimination particularly during the pandemic. It is valuable to see a wide variety of situations through the eyes of others and to learn the correct language to address problems and to be inclusive at work and outside. Recognition and acknowledgement of personal bias and prejudices was an important section.”
– Member dentist

Situalional Judgment Test online mock exam launched July

We designed a course to help dental students across the UK looking to apply to National Recruitment Dental Foundation Training, helping them practice different scenarios and building confidence in answering SJTs.

“Definitely recommend

Recently joined the BDA for indemnity and I wish I’d done it sooner! Loads of great CPD courses, access to so many journals and books but best of all support if you need it and they seem to always work with the dentist in mind. Definitely recommend!”
– Robert Evans

The service offered by the BDA library is outstanding. Requests are dealt with quickly and efficiently. Research, continuing personal and professional development have continued uninterrupted during the lockdowns - thank you.

– Susan Betts
STUDENTS

Chairside Podcast
To help transition to full-time work and to raise awareness of the opportunities available to dental students, we released a podcast series, ‘Chairside’, where, Andrea Ogden, a general practitioner and our Undergraduate and Career Development Lead, is joined by dental professionals who discuss their journey and the paths they took which changed the course of their career.

COVID-19 Disruption payment
After voicing our concerns of students not being entitled to the COVID recognition payments, we were pleased to have seen all UK or EU students enrolled on a full-time higher education course in Northern Ireland receive a one-off £500 COVID-19 Disruption Payment.

SJT online mock exam
We prepared a new SJT mock exam, available exclusively to final year dental student members to polish up skills for the dental foundation training assessment. The course consists of 50 cases which have been designed to practise a broad range of scenarios. Delegates can compare their results with recommended answers. The mock exam follows the COPDEND format, with all scenarios and recommended responses having been reviewed and examined by young professionals and experienced dentists.

INDEMNITY

Where our members are concerned...

so are we.

During this challenging year, we’ve made sure our service exceeded expectations:

Premiums were adjusted to reflect members workloads during the pandemic
Dento-legal advisors provided a response (not just an acknowledgement) to written matters, in 70% of cases, within two working days
The Dento-legal advisor team grows, welcoming two more experts to help members.

Switching to the indemnity cover of the BDA
Switching to the indemnity cover of the BDA is a decision that I strongly recommend to every dentist who wants to be in the safest, most genuinely dedicated and professional hands. I joined the BDA indemnity and was helped by the dento-legal team in an issue that was unfairly initiated by my previous insurer, a so called “claims based insurer”.

For every dentist who is interested in an indemnity that complies with the GDC regulations and simultaneously puts the dentists and patients interest in the focus, an insurer who offers an “occurrence based cover” and NOT an insurer that is alone interested in collecting their premiums under any circumstances putting the dentist and the public in risk, I strongly recommend the BDA indemnity.

Moreover, the BDA team represented me in the mentioned subject regardless as when I joined their indemnity, a clear indication to their dedication and interest to improve the practicing environment of dentists.

The BDA has issued so much helpful advice
The BDA has issued so much helpful advice, as a dental student. It is a very supportive organisation.

Walid
3 reviews
17 May 2021

Nikita Radhika Joshi
4 reviews
1 Oct 2020
Our members are at the heart of everything we do.

Get the most out of your membership and enjoy the advice, support and services you need.