

British Association of Dental Nurses®

Room 200, Hillhouse International Business Centre
Thornton-Cleveleys FY5 4QD
Tel: 01253 338360
www.badn.org.uk



Chief Executive:
PAMELA A SWAIN
MBA, LCGI, FIAM, FCMJ

President: Jacqui Elsden RDN MSc

7 April 2020

Mr. I. Brack
Registrar and CEO
General Dental Council
Via email

Dear Ian,

ARF Payments 2020

As you know, dental nurses are the lowest paid members of the dental team, often only on Minimum National Wage, and very often part time workers. As a result, many struggle to pay the disproportionately high ARF of £114 anyway.

Despite the financial support being given to NHS practices, which requires them to continue to pay staff at normal levels, and private practices being eligible for the furlough scheme, allowing them to pay their staff 80% of their salaries (and it has now been clarified that mixed practices can accept the NHS support and apply for the furlough scheme in proportion to their private business), many practices are telling their staff that they must take unpaid leave until the current crisis is over. Some are even firing their staff under guise of “redundancy”, or demanding that staff take their annual leave, for both this year and next, telling staff that “dentistry is not eligible” for any financial support from government.

Leaving aside for a moment the questionable ethics of those dentists who are accepting financial support from the government, but forcing their staff to take unpaid leave (although this is a subject which we shall have to revisit at a later date), many dental nurses are now left with no income until they can return to work – if, indeed, they still have a job! The payment of the ARF in July is therefore going to be difficult, if not impossible, for many dental nurses.

BADN has lowered its annual membership fee from £50 to £30 to allow dental nurses in financial difficulties to continue their membership (which allows access to many money-saving benefits, as well as free CPD), and our indemnity provider will soon be announcing similar measures to allow BADN members to continue their indemnity cover.

As the UK’s professional association for dental nurses, BADN are now requesting that the GDC takes similar action to waive or drastically reduce the ARF for dental nurses due in July 2020. To fail to do so will result in many dental nurses being unable financially to renew their registration and forced to leave the profession – which will have a devastating knock on effect throughout dentistry.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jacqui Elsden', written in a cursive style.

Jacqui Elsden
BADN President