



**To: LDC Conference Representatives and Observers
General Dental Practice Committee Members**

Dear Delegate,

I am really looking forward to welcoming you to our first ever online LDC conference. It is great that you have signed up to be a part of this pioneering event.

As Chair of LDC Conference 2019-20 the year has been a rollercoaster. The arrival of the Covid crisis meant I had to cancel all our big plans to hold conference in Brighton in June. Since then we have worked hard to create what we believe will be the most representative, accessible, green, covid-safe and cost-effective conference ever.

We have great speakers and discussions lined up in a lively and condensed format.

It was essential that we didn't lose the opportunity to hold conference, given that our profession is going through some of the most difficult challenges in its existence.

Online conference 2020 is an urgent call to action, the current environment means we must build bridges, collaborate and work together to secure the best future for all in our profession.

LDCs have submitted a great variety of motions for debate and I am delighted that the vast majority have pre-recorded their motion speeches. This innovatory method is a great opportunity for speakers to hone and present their arguments to best effect, setting the scene for live debate on the day.

Like the rest of our profession, I want to keep you all as up to date with the current situation and I am delighted that, amongst others, CDO Sarah Hurley will inform us of how things are moving forward, as well informing us of the rationale behind her work during this emergency.

Conference is your chance to be informed by, and also give direction to, our GDPC Executive, particularly GDPC chair Dave Cottam, as he represents our interests at the negotiating table.

Please read the papers in advance, consider as many motions as you can and even speak up and comment on the day. Your voice matters so be brave. I will chair conference with the intention to ensure an atmosphere of dignity, courtesy and respect.

I want to thank the LDC Agenda Committee, Past Chair Vijay Sudra, Chair Elect Stuart Allan, Treasurer Pete Hodgkinson, Judith Husband, Russell Gidney and Dan Cook for all their considerable support. Also, special thanks to the BDA secretariat (Alex Cenic, Fiona Feltham) for assisting the LDC AC in enabling conference to happen, I could not have got through the last twelve months without their unstinting support, I am in their debt.

A final thanks to Binal Sawjani our production lead for all her encouragement and enthusiasm. I am confident she will ensure the day runs smoothly and everything works splendidly.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Leah Farrell'.

Leah Farrell
Chair of LDC Conference 2020

