



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

Dear Colleagues,

It is a great honour to be welcoming you to Newport for this year's Annual Conference of Local Dental Committees, which will be held at the International Conference Centre Wales with dinner on Thursday 9 June and Conference on Friday 10 June.

Why Newport? As you may know, I hail originally from Low Fell in Gateshead. To cut a very long story short, I have worked just a stone's throw from the venue, in Ringland, for the past 13 years. Given the level of support my colleagues in Wales have offered it seemed fitting that I should chair Conference here in the Land of Song.

Newport is a city with a proud industrial past in steelmaking and coal, now finding its way in a very different world. It is perhaps best known in history for being the setting of a violent night in the history of the development of British democracy. In 1839 thousands of Chartists, whose demands included extension of the voting franchise beyond the landed gentry, descended upon Newport after the imprisonment of some of their number in the Westgate Hotel; a bloody battle ensued.

The River Usk is known as the home of only one of two working transporter bridges in the UK (its sister spans the Tees at Middlesbrough, a place sharing more than a passing resemblance to Newport). More recently, the Celtic Manor Resort played host to golf's Ryder Cup in 2010 and the NATO Summit in 2014.

I am so pleased and proud that we were able to keep Conference going in virtual form during the pandemic. It was imperative that the profession did not lose its voice at such a critical time and that those holding the purse strings could be challenged and held to account, whilst LDC representatives could direct GDPC to the issues that mattered most.

I wish I could say that the pandemic had finally illustrated to the governments of the UK the crisis that had already set in prior to 2020. Whilst there have been some rays of hope, the shadows of despair that have held our profession back for so long show no sign of abating. The recruitment crisis is deepening and funding in real terms has reduced over and over again, whilst unrealistic targets and metrics are applied. There is still much talk of 'incentivising' dentists to do the right thing, where merely avoiding penalties and clawback by the state are often the reality. The added expectation by some patients that they can buy the 'perfect smile', the resulting impact of dental tourism and the aggressive marketing of direct-to-patient dentistry creates the recipe for a perfect storm.

We have some very talented, caring and committed people in our profession and there is always hope so long as that remains true. I am asking those of you who are old hands at Conference to reach out to those attending in person for the first time, whoever they may be. Having new faces with fresh ideas is essential to the evolution of any movement and we have tried to make this one of the key themes of Conference this year.

Please find following some specific information to help with preparations ahead of the event.

Motions

Please read the list of motions contained in the [conference papers](#) ahead of the event and submit any requests for changes to the wording of motions to alexandra.cenic@bda.org by Tuesday 31 May. In line with Standing Orders and of course to ensure an efficient use of the limited time available on the day, requests for changes to motions will not be accepted on the day of the event.

Induction session for first-time Conference attendees

We are delighted to be welcoming some newcomers to the event this year. To help set the scene for anyone joining us at Conference for the first-time I, along with Judith Husband from the Agenda Committee, will be hosting an informal virtual briefing session on Thursday 26 May (19:00 – 19:30). Do join us on this Zoom call if you can.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84705052897?pwd=VHlmRIIDVlpkSGNGYWVhN0tkbDhCQQT09>

Meeting ID: 847 0505 2897

Passcode: LDC2022

Voting permissions

To ensure correct voting permissions at the Conference please check you are registered in the correct capacity (see *delegate list enclosed*). If you have registered for the conference as a GDPC member but no one is attending from your LDC it is recommended you amend your registration to that of LDC Representative so you can vote on your LDC's behalf. Please contact **Fiona Feltham** as soon as possible (fiona.feltham@bda.org / **020 7563 6876**) to update your voting permissions. The same applies if you are due to attend as the Observer, but a change in circumstances has found you taking on the role of Representative.

LDC Representatives – voting

LDC Representatives are required to bring a smartphone or tablet along to the event this year to participate in the voting. Further details will be provided in due course to those eligible to vote during motions.

Conference Dinner – Thursday 9 June

The Conference Dinner will this year take place the evening before the Conference, also in the Woodland Suite at the ICC Wales. The evening begins with a drinks reception at 19:15 with dinner service commencing at 20:00. Dress code is black tie. If you have not booked but would now like to attend, please contact Fiona to ensure you can be accommodated (fiona.feltham@bda.org / **020 7563 6876**).

Accommodation, travel and expenses

If you have not yet made accommodation arrangements, please contact **MICE Concierge the appointed hotel agents on 01438 908 770 / hello@miceconcierge.com**

Information about [travel arrangements](#) and [expense claiming](#) (including the appropriate claim forms for LDC Reps and GDPC members) can be found on the website.

To help you with your travel plans it may be useful to highlight that Conference on the Friday will commence at 09:00 (join us for networking breakfast from 08:00) and conclude at 17:00.

Sponsors and exhibitors

We are delighted to have BDA Indemnity sponsoring the event this year and thank them for their support. We will be joined by an array of exhibitors too and their support is also valued and please do take the time to visit the exhibition during the breaks.

Conference papers at the event

<https://www.ldcuk.org/papers>

The link to [download the Conference papers](#) from the LDC Conference website will have been emailed to pre-registered delegates. Hard copies will not be provided on the day, but you are encouraged to bring your own device if you would like to view the information electronically during the event or print beforehand if you prefer paper copies.

Warmest wishes



Dan Cook
Chair of LDC Conference 2022

www.ldcuk.org

#LDCConf2022