



British Dental Association

## Overview of GDPC policy since 2018

1. This document brings together the key themes, policy decisions taken and the rationale for them since 2018. An overview of the GDPC policy from its inception in 2003 to 2017 is available here.

### LDC levy

2. The grouped collection of LDC levies was causing problems in under- and over-funding some LDCs. The GDPC agreed to raise this issue with NHS England and the NHS BSA. It was felt that was a need to unify and modernise the levy.

### Contract reform – National tariff

3. In May 2018, the Committee considered whether a national tariff should be introduced in a reformed contract so that practices receive the same payment for providing the same treatment to the same patient.
4. On the basis of seeking the highest value and ensuring protections on financial viability, the Committee voted on the question 'Does the GDPC believe that a patient being treated under a reformed contract should attract the same payment for the same treatment, regardless of which practice they choose to be treated in?'. The majority voted in favour, with four members voting against and eight abstaining.

### Patient charges

5. The Committee were asked to consider its view on patient charges. The Committee voted in favour of the following proposals:
  - That, ideally, patient charges would not exist as they deter patients from seeking necessary dental care.
  - That as long as patient charges exist, dentists should not be required to collect them.
  - That any increases in patient charges should be no more than inflation.

### GDC – ARF

6. In relation to the GDC's fees setting consultation, the GDPC felt that the GDC should consider introducing reduced registration fees for those working part-time, as the Annual Retention Fee was leading many part-time dentists to leave practice. There was also support for paying the ARF by instalment and for having a register for retired dentists. It was also raised that dentists who retire mid-year are not reimbursed pro-rata and the Committee felt this should be the case.

### **Contract reform – capitation period**

7. In October 2018, the GDPC discussed its view on the length of the capitation period under the reformed contract. The Committee voted in favour of a three-year capitation period.

### **Contract reform – capitation period**

8. In October 2018, the GDPC discussed motions that had not been debated at LDC Conference 2018 and the following motions were passed:
  - This conference calls for the formalisation of the practitioner advice and support schemes in Local Dental Committees across the nation.
  - This conference deplores the high levels of stress amongst the profession and demands access to mental health based occupational health services for GDCPs.
  - Since 2006 NHS dentists have experienced a steady decline in income directly associated with additional regulatory demands being unfunded. Conference demands that:
    - i. with the potential introduction of a digital coding system for dentistry, adequate funding be forthcoming from the government to support the additional software costs together with the extra time required to complete patients' records
    - ii. additional costs associated with GDPR are fully funded
  - This conference deplores the initiatives of Advancing Dental Care by HEE/COPDEND to fundamentally change the training of dental students through common entry.
  - This conference believes we should put the 'national' back into NHS Dentistry.
  - This conference demands that UDA or UOA are awarded to practitioners to compensate for loss of practice time due to patients failing to attend appointments or cancelling with insufficient time to reallocate the time booked.