**WGDPC Chair update 3/7/2020**

This is the latest of these regular update to LDCs across Wales from the Chair of Welsh GDPC.

This Thursday, alongside the Vice Chair of WGDPC Lauren Harrhy, and the Chair of Welsh Committee for Community Dentistry David Johnson I provided oral evidence to the Senedd’s Health, Social Care and Sport Select Committee who are looking at the impact that Covid 19 has had on Dental Services across Wales.

Watch from 11.15. <http://www.senedd.tv/Meeting/Live/881c4dab-6044-4da0-b089-d11c322b626e>

We spoke across a vast range of topics that will impact on all Dental Teams across the country regardless of private or NHS split, including our views on phased return to work, the backlog we face and the impact this will have on our patients. We described the unique challenges of mixed practices and that in these cases private treatment has always subsidised the NHS element. We talked on concerns of disease progression, mouth cancer and the impact on children. We discussed the dearth of evidence surrounding PPE, its availability and vast cost increases; the impact of fit testing and fallow time on practices and general environmental factors. We also talked about the Welsh Governments recovery plan for dentistry and the need for piloting and consultation.

<https://bda.org/news-centre/blog/Pages/Coronavirus-dentistry-in-Wales-needs-urgent-support.aspx>

Our key asks document has been sent to the committee for their consideration. We understand that the Health Minister is due to appear before the Committee shortly and look forward to his answers.

Lauren also appeared on BBC Radio Wales teeth and eyes section and I was interviewed by Global Radio to further raise the voice of dentists across Wales.

Last week I joined representatives from across the UK at GDPC, where again we discussed issues impacting on all dentists, showing how all four of the nations are taking a differing approach. Colleagues report equal challenges with PPE and fit testing, that in England there is still no confirmation of any NHS abatement, and that Scotland and Northern Ireland both remain on fee per item based NHS contracts. BDA will be working alongside SDCEP looking at fallow times.

The link to last weeks blog on NHS contract issues is here: <https://www.bda.org/news-centre/blog/Pages/Coronavirus-How-the-proposed-NHS-dental-recovery-plan-will-work-in-Wales.aspx>

Welsh GDPC plan to meet again next week, and I will also be attending the Welsh Dental Committee alongside members of the various LDCs and colleagues from across the spectrum of the profession. As ever I will endeavour to keep you all updated.

As usual the BDA live update page is a useful source of ongoing information: <https://www.bda.org/advice/Coronavirus/Pages/latest-updates.aspx>

Best wishes

Tom

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Chair WGDPC