

SO WHAT IS THE BAPD DOING NOW



We're sometimes asked by members 'What are the BAPD doing now?'. The formation of the BAPD was the result of a need for representation of the Private Dental sector during the pandemic and quickly became a voice that was heard by both the profession and the establishment. It was never the intention of the BAPD to be a 'one issue' organisation. Whilst the urgency at the time defined the initial direction of the BAPD's work, it was always clear that there was going to be a need for a long term view for the organisation.

Once everyone was 'happily' back at work, it became obvious that the work that the BAPD needed to concentrate on was no longer solely related to the pandemic. The BAPD is however one of the supporting organisations of the Covid 19 Dental Alliance (<https://www.dental-alliance.co.uk>) which seeks to be present at the upcoming Covid 19 Inquiry. It was always the intention of the founders of the BAPD that the bigger picture of Private Dentistry needed to be considered, and particularly how an agenda espousing Quality Dentistry could be adopted. Another priority was the need to challenge and question our regulators. The intent was to become a stakeholder in the conversations that involved dentistry. We accepted that we would need to restrict our position on NHS Dentistry to how it affects Private Dentistry and not even try to be involved in NHS contract discussions.

We do however believe it is our responsibility to our members to be informed of what is happening in the NHS and how this might affect the dental market on the larger scale.

So what has been happening in the BAPD?

We have been fortunate to have several meetings with the GDC where our opinions have been aired without holding back. Since one of our original long term goals was to have a route of communication with the GDC, we are pleased that this has happened so early in our existence.

Whilst much of what is discussed at these types of meetings has to remain confidential if the BAPD is to continue to be invited, the position of the BAPD will always be to robustly question regulators and put across the view of its members as the board sees fit.

A recent example of this was in a meeting with the GDC where we pointed out that a fundamental issue with dentistry that needs to be addressed is the entire UDA system and NOT those that work within such a flawed and discredited process.



Whilst the BAPD's remit is not to get involved with the NHS per se, we made it clear that if the legislative duty of the GDC is to protect the public, then to not criticise such a flawed system can be seen as a failure of the GDC's remit. However, given the political difficulty of the GDC being seen to take a critical position on this it is probably unlikely that this sort of position will ever be publicly taken by the GDC.

It is however now something that we have firmly placed on its radar and will press further in the future.

The same is true of our involvement with the CQC. Again, we have been at multiple meetings and observing how the new forms of inspection are likely to develop. It is challenging to influence fully organisations such as this given their remit is written in legislation so has a lack of flexibility by its very nature. However without the input of all the branches of dentistry especially the growing private sector, then it is possible that subtle details might be missed when new methods of inspection are enforced.

We have had an attendance all the major dental exhibitions and shows and been fortunate to secure our own lecture theatres which have concentrated more on the political, legal, and quality side of dentistry rather than clinical talks. We recognise that there are far more organisations that are able to provide the clinical lectures without us trying to reinvent the wheel, but that there is often a lack in information regarding topics such as the types of indemnity, how to actually convert a practice to private, and what Quality Dentistry actually means.

So whilst we might not be as loud a voice in public as we may have been during the pandemic, our voice is definitely still being heard, hopefully with a depth and maturity that belies the age of the association.

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