

Debbie Hemington
Chair, BADT

16th April 2020

By email

Dear Debbie,

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the upcoming ARF period for DCP registrants, and your concerns in light of the COVID 19 pandemic. These are challenging times which must be hugely worrying for your members.

We recognise that many dental professionals are facing the likelihood of financial distress. However, this is not an issue that we are able to solve on our own. We are aware of the actions other organisations are taking to help address this issue, as well as the financial support that government is providing for registrants, the self-employed and dental practices. We hope this will go some way to help, and we will continue to join the discussions with government to help ensure the needs and circumstances of dental professionals, across both NHS and private practice, are better understood.

That said, we are aware of the calls for us to take some action ourselves regarding the ARF payments which are due in July. The BADT is not the only professional body which has requested cessation of collection or some sort of variation to the level of the ARF. I ought to be clear that, unlike membership organisations or indemnifiers, the GDC is a statutory body which is obliged by law to undertake certain activities and to fund those by the collection of the ARF. A cessation of collection of the ARF as a whole is therefore effectively impossible. Nevertheless, I can assure you that we are looking very hard at what we can do to support DCPs (and dentists) with their ARF renewal, and as soon as we are in a position to advise further I will let you know.

Yours sincerely



Ian Brack
CEO and Registrar