

Ian Brack
Chief Executive and Registrar
General Dental Council

By email

6 April 2020

Dear Ian

ARF payments 2020

We would like to highlight to you the issue of ARF payments for 2020/2021.

As the GDC noted in its statement in March, it recognises the likelihood of registrants facing financial stress in the coming months, and we welcome this recognition.

As you might expect, we hope that some of the most imminent worries might be eased for some dentists by government support to NHS practices; however, given that the vast majority of practices operate in a mixed setting, the initial announcements on this matter created further worry and distress for many. The BDA has of course been in discussion with government about these issues and we believe reassurance for many, though not all, practices will now be available. However, associate dentists continue to face financial difficulties as most are currently unlikely to be eligible to apply for support through the self-employed scheme. Again the BDA is in discussion with government about this.

The dental care professional ARF is due in a matter of months; many individuals will currently not be working and will struggle to find the money to pay. Often, dentists pay for staff registration and might again find it difficult to do so this year.

We are therefore calling on you to consider a reduction or waiving of the registration fees for all registrant groups this year. Your newsletter noted likely decreased activity at Council level this year and an intention to delay expenditure and stripping out cost, so we would hope you will be able to propose such a step proactively and urgently in view of likely savings. This would be seen as a welcome and necessary show of support for the professions you regulate.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Alison Lockyer
Chair, Education, Ethics and the Dental Team