



## **Principal Executive Committee**

**7 February 2019**

### **Report to country councils and standing committees**

#### **Summary**

The Principal Executive Committee (PEC) met on 7 February 2019. This report contains a summary of the issues discussed.

#### **Statutory accounts**

Consideration was given to the statutory accounts for 2017 - 18, and the report from the auditors and Audit Committee. The auditors presented a satisfactory report on the BDA's financial management and governance in 2017 - 18.

The Audit Committee had taken the opportunity, as is common practice now, of meeting with the auditors in the absence of all staff so there was a confidential opportunity for either side to raise any matters in complete confidence. There had been no issues of concern to report from this discussion.

The PEC approved the statutory accounts, which will be published in the BDJ in March.

#### **Young Dentists Committee**

Nikki Patel, the Chair of the Young Dentists Committee, delivered a presentation on the work of the committee, and the priorities and concerns of younger colleagues.

In subsequent discussion, we considered how we can improve the engagement of younger colleagues in the governance and representative work of the Association, and how we can embrace and reflect the growing diversity of the profession in our governance and representative systems. Nikki herself considered these as key priorities for the future, and indeed our strategic governance review is timely in moving these issues to the top of our agenda.

## **Brexit**

We discussed what is known at this point about the consequences for dentistry of Britain leaving the European Union without a deal, or issues that will require clarification. These included the settlement scheme for EU citizens living in the UK, future migration policy, NHS guidance to providers, and GDC regulatory options.

The BDA has been neutral on the issue of Brexit, but not silent. Our work has included the submission of evidence to the Parliamentary Health Committee inquiry into the impact of Brexit on health and social care; our active participation in the Cavendish coalition, an alliance of health and social care organisations brought together to raise awareness of the possible workforce implications of Brexit; participation in a parliamentary roundtable discussion on mutual recognition of qualifications with the other professions benefiting from automatic recognition of qualifications (doctors, nurses, midwives, vets, engineers, lawyers, architects); participation in research by the Department for Business, Enterprise, Industry and Skills (BEIS) about how the Professional Qualifications Directive has worked for dentistry and what the considerations should be going forward.

The way forward regarding Brexit is very unclear at the time of writing, and like everyone else we await further decision making in Parliament and the EU. We will ensure that our interpretation of the consequences for dentistry, as decisions emerge, is given to members as soon as possible.

## **Benevolent Fund**

The Executive Committee of the Benevolent Fund and the PEC have been working together to produce proposals for modernising the governance of the Benevolent Fund, for consideration at the Fund's AGM in 2019. Further meetings have been held and we considered further proposals at the meeting of the PEC, including this time in regard to the structure of the Trust Board. Overall these meetings have been constructive, and we look forward to agreeing joint proposals that can be recommended later in the year.

## **Reports**

We received reports from Henrik Overgaard Nielsen on issues within the remit of the General Dental Practice Committee, and Susie Sanderson in her capacity as President.

Other items included reports from the BDA in Scotland, Northern Ireland, and Wales. Hannah Woolnough, the Chair of English Country Council, also joined us for the afternoon session in her capacity as the rotational Chair of the United Kingdom Council for 2019.

**Mick Armstrong**  
Chair, Principal Executive Committee

**February 2019**