

PSA report makes concerning reading says BDA

A Professional Standards Authority (PSA) [report](#) of an investigation into concerns about the General Dental Council (GDC) published this week raises serious concerns about the performance of the organisation in recent years, the BDA has said.

The report makes significant criticisms about the handling of the disciplinary process surrounding the departure of former GDC Chair Dr Alison Lockyer from the organisation, including the lack of a complainant or complaint against her, the lack of an established process for dealing with the situation and flaws in the way the matter was dealt with.

The report also looks at the GDC's performance more generally, noting improvements to its previously-criticised Fitness to Practise case handling.

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Nine weeks of bookings remaining for British Dental Conference and Exhibition 2013

It is now 12 weeks since registration opened and there are nine weeks to go until the 2013 British Dental Conference and Exhibition. There are now 2,616 people registered to attend, an increase of 429 over this point last year, and 119 companies have booked exhibition stands. Further information is on the conference website at www.bda.org/conference

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Conference session to discuss new contract pilots

BDA General Dental Practice Committee Chair Dr John Milne will be discussing the new dental contract in three sessions at the [British Dental Conference and Exhibition](#) in April.

John, who along with the GDCP Executive has done a lot of work on the [new contract pilots](#), will talk about the latest developments concerning the pilot practices and what this means in real terms for dental professionals.

Sessions will be held at the British Dental Conference and Exhibition, which runs from Thursday 25 to Saturday 27 April, in Room 6 at the event, in London's Excel Centre.

Times are Thursday 12.45pm, Friday 11.15am and Saturday 11.15am. All sessions are scheduled to last one hour. Visit the [event website](#) for tickets.

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Young Dentist Conference

The Young Dentist Conference 2013, co-hosted by the BDA, BDJ and Dental Protection, took place on Saturday 9 February, at the Royal College of Physicians in London. The event was attended by 222 delegates and supported by 13 exhibitors, including the BDA. Two clinical sessions were held in the morning: 'Treating periodontal disease' and 'Restore, extract, refer?'. In the afternoon Michael Lessani of the BDA's Young Dentist Committee gave a presentation on 'The next five years: life after dental school' and John Tiernan from Dental Protection, provided advice in a talk entitled 'When things go wrong'.

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Second meeting of BDA's English Council

The second meeting of the BDA's English Council took place on 15 February. The committee discussed its agenda setting and communications, received activity reports from branches and discussed a number of policy issues including contract pilots, advanced care and pensions.

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Guidance page concerning LDC's role in central commissioning published

The BDA has published a guidance for LDCs about the imminent evolution of the NHS architecture in England. The guidance follows the publication of 'Securing excellence in commissioning NHS dental services' by the NHS Commissioning Board. The guidance covers a number of areas of particular interest to LDCs and outlines the role that LDCs might have beyond April. The remit for LDCs remains very similar under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 although, from April, LDCs will be recognised by the NHS Commissioning Board, rather than by each PCT. The representative role for LDCs is emphasised, along with the future arrangements for recognition and levy collection. Advice for considering their potential role in Local Dental Networks is also provided. The BDA guidance for LDCs is available at: www.bda.org/ldc-connections. The guidance will be updated whenever new information becomes available. The BDA has also published [an overview of the report](#) 'Securing excellence in commissioning NHS dental services.'

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First meeting of the 2014 Programme Planning Committee

On Wednesday 13 February, the first meeting of the Programme Planning Committee took place for the 2014 British Dental Conference and Exhibition. The event will be held at Manchester Central Convention Complex, Manchester from 10 to 12 April 2014.

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BDA Branch events plus Local Team at conference

The BDA Local Team and the BDA's 21 Branches and the three Salaried Groups are inviting all members, delegates and exhibitors to visit stand K14 at the forthcoming British Dental Conference and Exhibition, where the team and representatives from some of the Branch and Section network will be on hand to discuss local dental issues.

The stand will be offering afternoon tea on Thursday and Friday between 3.45pm and 4.30pm and cocktails on Saturday from 1.45pm to 2.45pm.

Several branches have held successful events recently. Building on the popularity of a recent core subject study day, the Essex Branch is holding further full day meetings: 'Marketing for the whole team' on 14 March in Brentwood, and 'Truly Minimally Invasive and Simple Cosmetic Dentistry for Every Dentist' on 31 May at Basildon Hospital. More details can be found on the [events page](#).

Wessex Branch also has two more full-day study days. On February 21 Barrie Evans & Sanjay Sharma present 'Oral Malignancies, diagnosis & management' at the Langston Hotel, Hayling Island, and in June at Kingston Maurward College, Dorchester Sheila Scott hosts 'Successful Preventative Practice: a Sustainable Approach'.

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Training essentials update

An IRMER course in dental radiography and radiation protection took place on Friday 15 February and attracted 35 delegates. The course was held at MANDEC, Manchester and was delivered by Paul Nixon, Consultant in Maxillofacial Radiography, Liverpool Dental Hospital. The course helped members gain core CPD training. Plandent Ltd exhibited during the refreshment breaks.

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