

The BDJ News section accepts items that include general news, latest research and diary events that interest our readers. Press releases or articles may be edited, and should include a colour photograph if possible.

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ALMOST 37,000 DENTISTS PAY ARF

The General Dental Council (GDC) has successfully processed 36,962 annual retention fee (ARF) payments from its dentist registrants.

The deadline to pay the fee for 2011 was 31 December 2010. Nearly 5,000 of those who paid used the GDC's eGDC website.

Eight hundred and eighty-six dentists were removed from the register for

not paying their ARF; so far 171 applications for restoration to the register have been received and 514 dentists voluntarily requested that their names be removed.

Dentists who want to return to the register must complete a form; have a medical examination; provide a character reference; and pay £696 (to include the ARF).

If they were practising overseas while off the register they must provide a letter of good standing from the relevant authority of that country. If they were working in the UK when their name was removed from the register they must provide a letter from their employer to explain the circumstances. If the latter is the case, those dentists are advised to contact their solicitor or defence organisation before submitting their application.

EXTRACTED CROWNS NEEDED FOR ORPHANS IN 124 COUNTRIES

The Swiss recycling company SER is collecting and recycling crowned teeth from dental practices to raise money for the world's largest orphan charity, SOS Children's Villages.

UK dentists are already participating in the 'Crown Collection' campaign. A tin is placed in the practice, free of charge, and any patient having a metal crown extracted has the option of contributing their crown to the SOS Children's Villages. The crowns are collected by SER, the precious metals are recycled, and the revenue generated from the resale of the metal goes entirely to the charity.

SOS Children provides a family for life for children who have lost their parents through conflict, famine, natural disaster, disease and poverty. Over 78,000 orphaned and abandoned children are cared for by SOS mothers in clusters of family homes in 508 Children's Villages, in 124 countries around the world. A further million children benefit from SOS Children's outreach support.



Dentist John Ahearne agreed to hosting a tin at his practice and gradually the tin has been filled with patients' crowns. 'The whole process couldn't be simpler,' commented Dr Ahearne.

Dental practices who would like to have an SOS Children crown donation tin can contact SER on freephone number 0800 1412611 or email infosos@ser-preciousmetal.com.