

1 December 2011

Dear Member

Office of Fair Trading (OFT) Study into Dentistry – Direct Access

You will have seen on our website and in our recent publications that in September of this year the OFT launched a study to examine if the private and NHS dentistry markets are working well for patients.

At BSDHT we very much welcome this study and from our discussions with the OFT it is clear they are interested in hearing the views of our members.

As a consequence on 18th November an OFT representative joined us for a couple of hours on the BSDHT Stand at the Oral Health Conference in Bournemouth specifically to hear directly from dental hygienists or dental therapists. This proved to be very popular and many delegates took up the opportunity to express their views.

However I am aware that not all members were able to attend the Conference in Bournemouth.

The OFT do not anticipate publishing their findings until March 2012 and I'm keen that we should make the most of the time until then to get our views across. This is particularly important in relation to direct access where the OFT want to hear real rather than anecdotal examples of the impact - particularly the financial impact - the current lack of direct access has upon you and your patients.

So I'm writing personally to each and every member of BSDHT to encourage you to submit your views and comments to the OFT. You can do so by email to dentistry@oft.gsi.gov.uk, or you can write to them at:

Dentistry Market Study Team
Services and Public Markets Group
Office of Fair Trading
Fleetbank House
2-6 Salisbury Square
London EC4Y 8JX

Please do your part by pledging your support for the removal of the requirement of a referral from a dentist to see a dental hygienist or dental therapist and where possible, by providing evidence of the negative impact denial of direct access has for you and your patients.

Let's not miss this opportunity to influence the outcome of this study.

Thank you for your support.



Sally Simpson - President