

PRESS RELEASE



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MAINTAIN REGISTRATION OR ELSE...!, WARNS MDDUS

Dentists must take care to ensure they maintain their registration with the General Dental Council in order to avoid a situation where they are working illegally - warns the Medical and Dental Defence Union of Scotland (MDDUS).

The GDC has recently removed over 4,000 dental care professionals from its register for failing to pay the annual retention fee (ARF) on time. This means many have been working, unaware they were not registered. Those that have been removed may well have been working illegally for weeks.

By law, all dentists, dental nurses, dental technicians, dental hygienists, dental therapists, clinical dental technicians and orthodontic therapists who provide dental care in the UK must be registered with the GDC.

The GDC advises registrants about one month before their existing registration is due to expire and provides a direct debit form to eliminate the risk of registration being overlooked at time of renewal. There is also an opportunity to pay online via the GDC website.

Aubrey Craig, head of the dental division of the UK-wide MDDUS, says: "There are various reasons why so many have been removed from the register – including being unaware of the procedure, not being able to afford the fee, leaving the profession or taking a career break.

"However, maintaining registration is applicable to all registrants. Registrants must inform their regulatory body if they change address, change bank details, leave the profession etc. A direct debit mandate is the securest method of ensuring continuing registration," adds Craig.

MDDUS encourages all registrants to ensure details are correct with the registrar to prevent removal and possible investigation for unlawful practice by the GDC.

Ends

For further information contact Colin Calder on 0141 616 2677 or 07850 510881.

Note to editors

MDDUS is a medical and dental defence organisation providing access to professional indemnity and expert medico- and dento-legal advice for doctors, dentists and other healthcare professionals throughout the UK. For further information on MDDUS go to www.mddus.com.