

Morgannwg Local Dental Committee

Secretary's Report 27th September 2011

Despite my request for a 'shadow' so that at some time soon I can ride off into the sunset, no colleague has put a hand up. My own plans are a little clearer now and I would be happy to carry on as Secretary certainly into the middle of 2012 and perhaps a little longer. This is very much dependent upon the committee being happy to have a semi-retired secretary who is not a member of the committee. If this is the case I still think it would be appropriate to have someone shadowing me for some months before taking over.

Fortunately almost all correspondence now comes electronically, and any correspondence I send out is by email. This cuts down on paper and anything that needs to be sent on to members is at a touch of a button which saves considerable time and expense.

David mentioned in his report that we have been assisting a colleague in a dispute with the locality. The initial contact was with David but he passed it on to me and I met with the practitioner and then gave support at a meeting at the Locality Office. This is one of our most important functions, assisting practitioners in disputes, often minor and often misunderstandings, with their locality offices.

You will have read in the dental press that there are problems with Seniority Payments in England. The Department of Health said that no further claims for these payments would be accepted after 1st April 2011. The BDA nationally are fighting this since the 'contribution' to seniority payments was a top slice off incomes – whether this will be successful we will have to wait and see. We can assure everyone that this is not the case in Wales, and at this time the WAG has no intention of stopping such payments.

I have had confirmation that the defence organisations will not assist members with contractual issues with staff – this is a function of the BDA. In the case of a constituent not being a member of the BDA then the LDC will do its best to provide help and advice.

Roger Pratley