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To: WGDPC <WGDPC@bda.org>

Cc: Martin Woodrow <Martin.Woodrow@bda.org>

Subject: Malware and cyber security advice

Dear WGDPC member

As discussed at the last WGDPC, malware attacks and data security are of concern to the committee, on learning that several practices in Wales have suffered such attacks recently. I have been in discussions about obtaining reliable guidance and how best to disseminate it. We have opted for multiple BDA channels of communication. There will be a feature in the November BDJ Practice with a concomitant fact sheet on the subject. Once published I will ensure attention is drawn to these via the member newsletter.

Meanwhile, Katrina would like WGDPC members to help disseminate this guidance locally. Therefore please find attached some initial guidance on ways in which Dental Practices can help reduce the risk of infection from Malware. This has been prepared for us by Martin Webley, Head of Cyber Security at NHS Wales Informatics Service. Please could you share with your usual contacts, acknowledging the source. Also, Health Boards have been asked to alert their dental practices about this issue, although I am not in possession of the detail.

The guidance attached should help Staff, Practice Managers and their IT Providers implement effective security controls, however as highlighted within the guide particular care should be taken when applying security controls to Practice Systems and underlying IT Infrastructure, and practice Managers should always liaise with their IT Provider to ensure both system and data backups are taken prior to any IT changes to avoid any unplanned interruption to business critical systems.

I hope this is of assistance and would be grateful for any further feedback on the subject.

Best wishes

Caroline

Dr Caroline Seddon

Director BDA Wales