**Vetting and barring scheme under review**

**Home Secretary withdraws scheme pending a ‘fundamental remodelling’; dental groups ‘wait with interest’**

A vetting scheme for all dental professionals changing jobs or starting work for the first time has been put under review by the new government.

The Vetting and Barring scheme, aimed at protecting children and vulnerable adults, has been criticised by many as disproportionate, overly burdensome and unduly infringing on civil liberties.

It was announced last year that from July 2010, any dental professionals who were changing jobs or starting work for the first time would need to register with the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) and that by 2015 all dental professionals would need to be registered with the Vetting and Barring scheme. However, registration with the scheme has been postponed.

Home Secretary, Theresa May said: “The safety of children and vulnerable adults is of paramount importance to the new government.

“Well though we are also vital that we take a measured approach in these matters. We’ve listened to the criticisms and will respond with a scheme that has been fundamentally remodeled. Vulnerable groups must be properly protected in a way that is proportionate and sensible. This redrawing of the vetting and barring scheme will ensure this happens.”

British Association of Dental Nurses’ President Sue Bruckel said: “Whilst we at BADN acknowledge the need to safeguard children and vulnerable adults, we welcome the Government’s decision to review the proposed scheme; and await with interest further developments.”

Sussie Sanderson, chair of the British Dental Association’s Executive Board, said: “We hope that the announcement of the halting of the proposed vetting and barring regulations signal a fresh approach to regulation that puts patient care before bureaucracy.”

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**Winning WAG’s smile**

Cheryl Cole has won the top spot for a Vogue judge and pop star was strides ahead of the other WAGs with her glowing smile winning her more than 70 per cent of the votes. The survey, conducted for National Smile Month by the British Dental Health Foundation and power-toothbrush maker Oral-B, asked more than 1,000 people to vote for the WAG with the best smile and one with the worst. L.A. based fashion designer Victoria Beckham’s pout proved to be the least popular of the WAGs, followed by new mum Colleen Rooney.

**Canines with bad canines!**

The number of dogs suffering from dental disease has risen by five per cent to 24 per cent, according to the Pets Dispensary for Sick Animals (PDSA). The veterinary charity revealed that nearly two million dogs could be suffering from dental disease. Northern Ireland and Wales has the highest rates while Scotland and London have seen a decrease in the number of pets needing attention. The best area in England for healthy pets gains is the North East, where only 20 per cent of pets needed treatment. The main reason for the overall rise, according to the PDSA, is poor diets, and lack of proper dental care or awareness on behalf of the owner.

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**News in Brief**

**Birthday Honours**

Paul Langmaid, chief dental officer for Wales, has been awarded a CBE in the Queen’s Birthday Honours List. Sir Syd Medland, who worked for the GDC until her retirement in 2009, has been awarded an MBE and John Rose, dental advisor to NHS Western Cheshire has also been awarded an MBE. Mr Rose was the founder chairman of the National Association of Dental Advisors.

**Best dental school**

The Times Online Good University Guide 2011 has ranked the University of Glasgow Dental School as first for dentistry in Scotland and third overall in the UK. Universities were ranked according to eight key performance areas: student satisfaction, research quality, entry standards, student-staff ratios, services and facilities spend, completion, good honours and graduate prospects.

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**Appy days**

NHS Bristol launches app for services access

**The right foundation**

Glive Lawrence looks at different types of business structure

**Stopping recession**

A clinical look at using reusable barriers in root recession coverage

**The trouble with patients**

Mhari Coxon looks at how to deal with those patients that raise the blood pressure!