



GOVERNMENT GIVES GREEN LIGHT FOR STATUTORY REGISTRATION OF DENTAL TECHNICIANS AND CLINICAL DENTAL TECHNICIANS

19th July 2005 will now be remembered as being the day that Dental Technicians and other PCD groups were finally recognised as professionals. The proposed changes to English law in the form of the 'Dentists Act 1984' by the changes proposed in the new section 60 order, were finally accepted in Parliament and by the Privy Council. Now it awaits the Queen's assent, by the signing of the order.

From this point on the General Dental Council will be liaising further and clarifying on the rules around the already published PCD curricula, team working guidance etc, also clarifying areas of detail and formalising the processes by which registering PCD's can begin. It would appear that the GDC's current target for starting registration is summer 2006. With a two year transition period allowing mediated entry for dental technicians who have no formal academic qualifications but who have a wealth of experience and a formal commitment to professional regulation. The title of DENTAL TECHNICIAN (DENTAL TECHNOLOGIST) will be reserved to those who are registered with the GDC.

Thank you on behalf of DTA for all the hard work and continued support shown during the many years of campaigning. The membership of the voluntary Dental Technicians Register, DTAG, DTETAB and now DTA, have been faithful to achieving our particular professions recognition which can only assist in improving the oral healthcare of UK patients. The membership of DTA can be rightfully proud of the commitment and individual effort that has achieved statutory registration for our profession. Our continued liaison with all PCD groups, DLA, Faculties, Deaneries, Department of Health, BDA and many others continues and is essential. We welcome the sharing of ideas and their continued liaison, support and guidance.

The DTA will actively be working with the GDC to develop a detailed understanding of the Dental Technicians role, our need for specialist recognition, the requirement for extended roles for dental technicians and other particular needs of our professional group. Such is all necessary in order to support oral healthcare provision for patients in modern team dentistry.

We would congratulate our fellow Dental Care Professionals, in particular the Dental Hygienists, Dental Therapists, Dental Nurses, Clinical Dental Technicians and Orthodontic Therapists, who like ourselves have been working tirelessly to improve patient care via gaining statutory registration and committing to professional responsibility.

Finally - Thank you to all those who have helped us in so many ways, from the initial work through to this great achievement. Although we also realise that we have much to do to establish the professional roles under formal statutory registration.

