

Our ref: EC / JS

18 April 2011

Dear Practice Principal

As you will now be aware, as of 1 April 2011 the Regulation and Improvement Authority (Independent Health Care) (Fees and Frequency of Inspections) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011, require providers of private dental care and treatment in Northern Ireland to be registered by the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA).

The registration of private dental treatment has now commenced following this change to legislation and as a result of a number of enquiries, RQIA has considered some of the issues raised and is providing further information / clarification.

We have included:

- 1 Information regarding submission of accounts
- 2 Clarification regarding Appendices 4 and 5 of the pre-registration self-assessment which refers to required policies and procedures (Annex 1)
- 3 Frequently asked questions and responses (Annex 2)

#### Financial Information

As part of the registration process, regulations require the submission of a number of pieces of financial information relating to an establishment and this has proved to be a source of some disquiet within the profession.

RQIA is of the opinion that unlike some other regulated services, financial viability of the establishment, or otherwise would have a small effect on the service users and so dental practices would be considered to be a low risk in this area.

RQIA would now propose, with the agreement of DHSSPS that for registration of dental practices, which would be considered to be low risk in this area to ask for a lesser standard of proof of financial viability. The requirement for the production of annual accounts would be replaced by a signed statement from an accountant as to the financial viability of the practice.

As outlined in the original guidance the following financial information is still required:

- 1 A statement from the responsible person / individual stating whether they have been declared bankrupt or if their estate has ever been placed in receivership.
- 2 A reference from the applicant's bank giving an opinion as to the applicant's financial standing.
- 3 A statement from the applicant giving assurance as to the current and future funding of the practice.
- 4 A copy of the employer's liability insurance.

If you are unable to provide an assurance letter from your accountant two sets of accounts as previously specified will still be required.

Yours sincerely

**Phelim Quinn**  
**Director of Operations and Chief Nurse Advisor**

Enc.

copy to: Glenn Houston  
Hall Graham