

15th July 2011

Dear Registrant,

It has come to the Dental Council's attention that there may be people undertaking unapproved programmes in orthodontic therapy and I am writing to you to set out the Council's position in this regard.


The Dental Council has introduced a scheme to establish orthodontic therapists as a class of auxiliary dental worker but it has not, as yet, approved any training programme that would lead to registration as an orthodontic therapist. The explicit and prior approval of the Dental Council is required for any training programme where any element of the training is provided in Ireland. The fact that a programme is already approved by another regulatory authority does not mean that it will be automatically approved by the Council.

It is illegal for any person to perform duties as a trainee or student orthodontic therapist in Ireland while enrolled on an unapproved programme of training and any such illegal practice must cease immediately. Failure to observe this could lead to the supervising dentist facing fitness to practise proceedings and to the student facing prosecution under the Dentists Act, 1985 for practicing dentistry illegally.

The Dental Council will **not** register any applicant to the orthodontic therapist register who has received clinical instruction or provided treatment (whether supervised or unsupervised) to patients in Ireland while undertaking an unapproved programme of training.

Subject to the foregoing, the Council will consider any programme submitted to it for the purposes of registration as an orthodontic therapist.

Yours sincerely



David O'Flynn  
Registrar