

More on website worries

Correction and discussion.

We received the following from the Office of National Statistics after the article *Website worries* by Nigel Knott appeared in *The Dentist*, September 2011.

'No personal census data have been obtained from the 2011 Census as Nigel Knott incorrectly suggests in his article *Website worries* on 2 September. He is referring to reports which turned out to be a hoax.

People can be reassured that their census records are secure. We have strict measures in place protecting the nation's census information.

The security and confidentiality of census data remain our top priority.'

Bryan Walker, 2011 Census external communications manager.

Nigel Knott, CEO of Dentsure

responded: 'I welcome the robust denial from the Office of National Statistics that the integrity of the 2011 Census personal data has not been compromised.

'Recent press reports about the loss of personal data either through

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negligence or unlawful online hacking however, have had the beneficial effect of raising public awareness over the dangers of the internet, electronic data storage and the use of email.

'Online security remains a major issue in healthcare in particular and it is reported the NHS has given up the task of the centralization of electronic patient medical records as a result.

'The weakest link in all of these grand online projects is the number of software technicians and personnel given access to the data hosting facilities and the ease with which data can be accessed and disseminated electronically. Within the EU there are very specific regulations concerning the use of electronic communications and these are contained in the UK SI 2426/2003. The Information Commissioner's Office has published



Publicity about unlawful hacking has raised public awareness of the dangers of the internet.

a new amendment to this SI that came into effect on May 25, 2011 requiring UK businesses and other organizations to obtain consent from website visitors in order to retrieve and store information from visitor's computers. The GDC requirements for patient consent have as a result taken on a complete new dimension and added yet more website worries for dentists and the GDC itself.'