

Information released from hearings

The General Dental Council will release information about the allegations a professional is facing up to two weeks in advance of a Professional Conduct Committee hearing. This information – called a **Programme of Business** - is usually published on our website.

Please note we do not publish names in advance for the Health Committee or the Interim Orders Committee.

The majority of hearings are held in public, but when sensitive issues arise the public and press may be asked to leave. This will also affect what information is released at a later date.

The Committee will produce a document called the **Findings of Fact** which will detail whether allegations were proven or not proven against a professional. It is important to note that this does not decide whether a professional's fitness to practise is impaired.

At the end of a hearing a document called the **Determination** is released. This is the Committee's decision over whether the proven findings of fact mean a professional's fitness to practise is impaired. It will also include any sanctions imposed, such as conditions on registration (which allow the registrant to continue working) or whether to suspend or remove the individual from the GDC's register. The GDC has a legal obligation to announce GDC rulings in public and we meet this obligation by reading them out at the hearing.

Journalists who attend the hearings can be provided with a copy of the Determination immediately after it has been announced. A copy can be requested via the press office and the information should appear on the website within 24 hours.

The GDC press office will make every effort to help you with your queries during hearings. We do not always attend hearings ourselves and would advise journalists keen to have specific details about evidence to attend in order to gather this information themselves. We have a press gallery and a room for journalists to use at Wimpole Street. Please contact the press office if you have any other questions.