

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
General Dental Council
held at 13:25pm on Friday 23 June 2023
in Closed Session at 37 Wimpole Street, London**

Council Members present:

Lord Harris	Chair
Terry Babbs	
Ilona Blue	
Donald Burden	
Anne Heal	
Angie Heilmann MBE	
Jeyanthi John	
Sheila Kumar	
Caroline Logan	
Simon Morrow	
Laura Simons	

Executive Directors in attendance:

Ian Brack	Chief Executive and Registrar
Gurvinder Soomal	Chief Operating Officer
John Cullinane	Executive Director, Fitness to Practise
Stefan Czerniawski	Executive Director, Strategy
Lisa Marie Williams	Executive Director, Legal and Governance

Staff and Others in attendance:

Samantha Bache	Associate Director, Finance (item 8 only)
Rebecca Cooper	Associate Director, Policy and Research (item 9 only)
Rebecca Ledwidge	Deputy Head of Governance
John Middleton	Head of People Services (item 10 only)
Clare Paget	Associate Director, Legal (item 9 only)
Joanne Rewcastle	Associate Director, Communications and Engagement
Katie Spears	Head of Governance (Secretary)

Apologies

Angela Harding	Associate Director, People and Organisational Development
Mike Lewis	

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies from Angela Harding (in respect of Item 10 – Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Strategy – Update on Action Plan) and Mike Lewis. Given that it created a suboptimal meeting experience, the Council **agreed** that hybrid attendance should generally only be permitted in cases of illness or where there was unusual travel disruption.

2. Declaration of interests

- 2.1 Gurvinder Soomal and Katie Spears made a declaration of interest in respect of the update on the Defined Benefit Pension Scheme contained within Item 6 – Minutes of the non-statutory Committees.

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

- 3.1 The full minutes of the closed meeting held on 21 June 2023 had been **approved via correspondence**.

4. Matters Arising and Rolling Actions List

- 4.1 The Council **noted** that there were no live actions.

5. Decisions Log

- 5.1 The Council **noted** that one decision had been taken by correspondence since the last Council meeting:
- a. On 24 May 2023, the Council had approved the recommendations of the Selection Panel in respect of Council Member appointments for presentation to the Privy Council.

6. Minutes of the meetings of the Non-Statutory Committees

- 6.1 The minutes of the following non-statutory Committees were **noted** by the Council:
- a. The Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) meeting of 18 May 2023.
 - b. The Finance and Performance Committee (FPC) meeting of 25 May 2023.
 - c. The Remuneration and Nomination Committee (RemNom) meeting of 11 May 2023.
 - d. The Statutory Panellists Assurance Committee (SPC) meeting of 7 June 2023.

Audit and Risk Committee

- 6.2 The Council heard a verbal update from the Chair of the ARC in respect of the Committee's discussions in private session on 18 May 2023.

Finance and Performance Committee

- 6.3 The Council heard a verbal update from the Chair of the FPC in respect of the Committee's discussions in on the proposed buyout of the Defined Benefit Pensions Scheme.
- 6.4 The Council **noted** the updates.

7. Chief Executive's Report

- 7.1 The Chief Executive provided an update to the Council in respect of the current external and internal environment.
- 7.2 The Chief Executive noted that much had changed since the Council had approved its Strategy in October 2022. There was significant interlinked project work to deliver, and the Executive Management Team (EMT) was working to identify key priorities over the next plan period. There was a need to carefully focus on strategic priorities and mandatory activities and to avoid overcommitting. This would help to ensure that the organisation could deliver what mattered, and at pace.
- 7.3 The Council **noted** the updates.
- The Associate Director, Finance joined the meeting.

8. Financial Delegated Authority – Headcount Management

- 8.1 The Associate Director, Finance presented the paper which proposed an amendment to the Financial Delegated Authority to allow for greater flexibility for the Executive Management Team to manage headcount requirements within the budget envelope agreed by the Council. The Council noted that the Chair of FPC and the Accounting Officer were supportive of the proposals and **approved** the update to the Financial Delegated Authority.
- The Associate Director, Finance left the meeting.
- The Associate Director, Policy & Research and Senior Counsel and Associate Director, Legal joined the meeting.

9. International Registration

- 9.1 The Associate Director, Policy & Research presented the paper which sought approval from the Council to consult on proposed draft Rules governing the GDC's international registration processes. The Council was presented with draft Rules for consideration in respect of the Overseas Registration Examination (ORE) and the assessment process for overseas qualified Dental Care Professionals (DCPs). The Council was reminded that the draft Rules were transitional provisions, which would be put in place to govern the system whilst longer term plans were developed.
- 9.2 The Council was reminded about the recent Section 60 Order which amended the GDC's legislative framework in respect of international registration. The existing Rules would expire in March 2024, so it was necessary for the Council to make new Rules to ensure that the organisation could continue to deliver the ORE and assessment processes for overseas qualified DCPs. There was a requirement for the organisation to consult on the form of those Rules and, whilst wholesale changes were not proposed at this point, this consultation also would help inform the development of longer-term policy approach.
- 9.3 The Council **discussed** and **approved** the proposal to consult, the draft consultation document (subject to a review for clarity) and the form of the draft Rules for consultation.
- The Associate Director, Policy and Research and Senior Counsel and Associate Director, Legal left the meeting.
- The Head of People Services joined the meeting.

10. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Strategy – Update on Action Plan

- 10.1 The Chief Operating Officer and Head of People Services presented the paper outlining the organisation's progress in implementing the EDI Strategy. The Council heard that the team had redrafted the paper following feedback from the ARC and noted that RSM were conducting an audit in this area over the next few weeks to support additional assurance.
- 10.2 The Council **noted** the update. The next iteration of the implementation of the action plan would be considered by the ARC and the refreshed Strategy would be considered by the Council in October.

The Head of People Services left the meeting.

11. Any Other Business

- 11.1 There was no other business, and the meeting was closed at 15:35pm.