

Unconfirmed

**Abbreviated Minutes of the Meeting of the General Dental Council
held at 9.30am on Thursday 13 December 2018
in Closed Session at 37 Wimpole Street, London W1G 8DQ**

Council Members present:

William Moyes (Chair)
Terry Babbs (Senior Independent Member)
Catherine Brady
Geraldine Campbell
Anne Heal
Jeyanthi John
Margaret Kellett
Sheila Kumar
Caroline Logan
Kirstie Moons
Simon Morrow
Crispin Passmore

Executive in attendance:

Ian Brack	Chief Executive and Registrar
Bobby Davis	Executive Director, Organisational Development
Matthew Hill	Executive Director, Strategy
Tom Scott	Executive Director, FtP Transition
Gurvinder Soomal	Executive Director, Registration and Corporate Resources

Staff in attendance:

Samantha Bache	Head of Finance and Procurement (Items 10 – 13 only)
Sam Clements	Head of Risk Management and Internal Audit (Item 14 only)
Nyree Connell	Corporate Policy Manager (Item 8 only)
Lisa Cunningham	Head of Communications and Engagement
Manjula Das	Head of Education Quality Assurance (Items 15 and 16 only)
Ian Jackson	Director for Scotland
Rachel Knight	Head of Governance
Patrick Kavanagh	Policy Manager, QA (Item 7 only)
Shaun Round	Senior FtP Lawyer (Prosecutions) (Item 8 only)
Guy Rubin	Research Manager (Item 7 only)
Charlie Russell	Governance Administrator
Ross Scales	Head of Upstream Regulation (Items 15 and 16 only)
Melissa Sharp	Head of Corporate Legal Services (Item 8 and 17 only)
Melanie Stewart	Head of Finance and Procurement (Items 10 – 13 only)
Sean Usher	Interim Senior Governance Manager
Lisa Marie Williams	Principal Legal Adviser

PART ONE – PRELIMINARY ITEMS

1. Opening remarks and apologies for absence

- 1.1. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 1.2. There were no apologies.

2. Declarations of interest

- 2.1. All staff declared an in interest in relation to items in Items 9 (estates) and 12 (pension scheme).

3. Approval of minutes of the previous meetings

- 3.1. Council received the minutes from the Closed Council meeting held on 4 October 2018. The unconfirmed abbreviated minutes were tabled at the meeting with apologies for their late circulation. The Chair requested that comments on these minutes should be directed to him by 5pm Friday 14th December.
- 3.2. Council **approved** the full minutes subject to the correction of typographical errors in items 7.8 and 10.9.
- 3.3. Council **agreed** that the unconfirmed abbreviated minutes would be approved by the Chair following receipt of comments from members.
- 3.4. The Council were informed that the style of minutes was under review by the new Head of Governance, and that any changes suggested would be imposed across all Council and Committee meetings.

4. Matters arising from the Closed Council meeting held on 4 October 2018 and rolling actions list

- 4.1. The Council noted progress made against actions arising from previous meetings and agreed that actions be updated as set out in the schedule.
- 4.2. Further updates on some items would be provided at the next meeting as some work was ongoing and some matters arising were being addressed by reports on the agenda today.

5. Decisions log

- 5.1. There were no decisions to be reported since the Council meeting on 4 October 2018.

PART TWO – ITEMS FOR DECISION AND DISCUSSION

6. Moving Upstream

- 6.1. Council had received the report and the draft document *Moving Upstream*. Council were informed that this was a first draft and was subject to review including any comments and edits proposed by Council during the meeting. Council were invited to comment.

Action: Comments and edit proposals to be sent to Angeline Burton, Mark Platt and Matthew Hill no later than 11 January 2019.

- 6.2. The report was **noted**.

7. Research into Impact of EU Exit on Registration of EU Dental Professionals

- 7.1. Matthew Hill and Guy Rubin reported to Council on the qualitative research undertaken regarding the intentions of EEA qualified dental professionals.
- 7.2. Council were informed that research indicated that the EU Exit would have a wide impact on UK Dentistry and it was proposed that the findings should be shared with the Department of Health and the wider sector.
- 7.3. Council noted that this was a good piece of work and had multiple applications across the GDC including budgeting and forecasting.
- 7.4. Council thanked the team for the report and the report was formally **noted**.

8. Implications of the Bawa-Garba decision

- 8.1. Council were asked to note the presentation they had been sent prior to the meeting. It was noted that the case was very significant and received extensive media coverage.
- 8.2. Council discussed the findings of the Williams report and recommendations and considered how the GDC can best apply to the findings to its work. A workshop to review the legislative constraints in FtP cases was suggested for 2019.
- 8.3. Council **noted** the report.

9. Estates Strategy

- 9.1. Gurvinder Soomal briefed Council on the Estates Strategy progress update which would be discussed in full in the public meeting. Lessons had been learned from Strand 1 which were being applied to Strand 2. Collective consultation with affected staff was nearing completion and individual consultations would continue.
- 9.2. Council discussed the financial update. There was some consideration of how changes to the projected net savings could be presented to Council visually, given the complexity of the project.
- 9.3. Council **noted** the report.

10. 2019 Investment Principles and strategy review

- 10.1. Council received a briefing on the current Investment Principles and noted that they would be asked to agree to these being maintained in 2019 in the public meeting.
- 10.2. Council asked about risk and were informed that though the GDC risk appetite for investment was low and would do all it could to have safe investments, some external factors were beyond the control of the GDC but were being monitored.
- 10.3. Council **noted** the report.

11. Financial Reserves Policy

- 11.1. Council were updated on the current Reserves Policy. The report indicated how the GDC compared to similar regulators and professional bodies. FPC had reviewed the policy at its meeting on 19 December 2018 and would carry out further work in early 2019.
- 11.2. A revised policy would be presented to Council at the March meeting following consideration and scrutiny by the FPC.

11.3. The Council **noted** that the policy would be fully discussed in the public meeting.

12. Review of Pension Scheme Funding

12.1. It was noted that Council would be asked to approve recommendations regarding pension scheme funding in the public meeting but that this was an opportunity to discuss confidential matters in advance in order to inform the later discussion.

12.2. It was noted that FPC continued to monitor the financial performance of the Scheme and that the Estates Strategy had led to a reduction in the number of people paying into the Defined Benefit section of the Scheme.

12.3. Council discussed the one-off contribution and the source of those funds.

12.4. Council **noted** the report.

13. Financial Forecast Report Q3

13.1. Council were presented the report to discuss confidentially any matters that could not be discussed in the public meeting.

13.2. Council were concerned that the IT costs exceeded budget and sought an explanation for the increase in this spend. Council were informed that for IT the GDC was more reliant on contracts than in other departments and this could be remedied in part by delaying some non-essential maintenance.

13.3. The Council **noted** the paper.

14. Strategic Risk Register Q3

14.1. Council were asked to approve the Strategic Risk Register and were given an update on the current risks. The register is considered by SLT at every meeting and had been considered by ARC in November.

14.2. Council were informed that there are 10 active risks on the register and that a new risk had been added.

14.3. Council were informed that one risk had decreased.

14.4. The Council **noted** the Risk Register and that the annual workshop on risk appetite was scheduled for Q1 2019.

15. Specialty List Developments – draft consultation

15.1. Council were presented the report and were informed that the latest draft reflected the comments made at previous meetings of Council and the Policy and Research Board.

15.2. Council were informed that the consultation would open in January 2019 for 12 weeks and the responses to the consultation would be presented in a report in Q2 2019.

15.3. Council **approved** the consultation.

16. Undergraduate Dental School

16.1. Council were asked to note the contents of the report and were given an update on a situation at a Dental School. The report outlined the issue and sought comments from Council on the next steps.

- 16.2. Council were assured that there was only a gap of 2 weeks between notification of the issue and action being taken.
- 16.3. The Council **noted** the paper and approved the next steps.

17. Significant Litigation Annual Report

- 17.1. Council were asked to note the report and were given an overview of any significant issues.
- 17.2. There were two judicial reviews in 2018. One related to guidance on Case Examiners and the other related to transitional arrangements for matters being transferred from Case Examiners to Investigating Committee. The team expected litigation to clarify new legislation and these matters were not exceptional.
- 17.3. The Council **noted** the report.

18. Horizon Scan

- 18.1. The Head of Communications presented the Horizon Scan and notified Council about an issue that needed to be brought to their attention as a matter of urgency. The Department of Health & Social Care was launching a consultation on indemnity cover for registered healthcare professionals. The GDC would respond to the consultation which closes on 28 February. Council noted that any changes could have an impact on the defence organisations.
- 18.2. Council were updated on the latest issues relating to EU Exit and though the report contained a lot of information about EU Exit there was nothing urgent relating to EU Exit for Council to note today.
- 18.3. Council were assured that if anything EU Exit related that impacted on the GDC occurred before the next Council they would be notified.
- 18.4. The Council **noted** the Horizon Scan report.

19. Any Other Business

- 19.1. There was no other business.

20. Review of the meeting

- 20.1. Further work was needed by the governance team to ensure the timely circulation of papers. Council were happy with the timings of the meeting and the contents of the reports.
- 20.2. It was recommended that the overall balance of the meeting should be reviewed, particularly the split between the closed and public agendas. The Chief Executive informed the meeting that to aid Council in future, where papers were required to be on both agendas a briefing note containing the confidential information would be circulated to the closed meeting, but the full paper and the decision would be dealt with in the open meeting.

21. Close of the meeting

- 21.1. There being no further business, the meeting ended at **12.24pm**

Date of next meeting: 31 January 2019

Name of Chair:

William Moyes

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