Minutes of the Meeting of the
General Dental Council
held at 4:15pm on Wednesday 4 December 2019
in Closed Session
at the General Dental Council, 1 Colmore Square, Birmingham, B4 6AJ

Council Members present:

William Moyes	(Chair)
Anne Heal	
Caroline Logan	
Catherine Brady	
Jeyanthi John	
Kirstie Moons	
Margaret Kellett	
Simon Morrow	
Terry Babbs	

Executive in attendance:

Ian Brack	Chief Executive and Registrar
Gurvinder Soomal	Executive Director, Registration and Corporate Resources
Lisa Marie Williams	Executive Director, Legal and Governance
Sarah Keyes	Executive Director, Organisational Development
Stefan Czerniawski	Executive Director, Strategy
Tom Scott	Executive Director, FtP Transition

Staff in attendance:

Colin MacKenzie	Interim Head of Communications and Engagement
Sam Clements	Head of Risk Management and Internal Audit (Item 7 only)
Katie Spears	Interim Head of Governance (Secretary)
Paula Woodward Pfister	Governance Consultant

PART ONE – PRELIMINARY ITEMS

1. Opening remarks and apologies for absence

1.1. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced new attendees.

1.2. Apologies for absence were received from Crispin Passmore, Geraldine Campbell and Sheila Kumar.

2. Declarations of interest

2.1. All staff declared an interest in the Staff Survey item.

3. Approval of minutes of the previous meetings

3.1. The Council **noted** that the full minutes of the closed Council meeting held on 3 October 2019 had been approved via correspondence and a final version had been circulated to Council members on 1 November 2019.

3.2. The Council **noted** that the abbreviated minutes from the closed Council meeting held on 3 October 2019 had been approved via corresponding and circulated on 20 November 2019. The Council **approved** the abbreviated minutes for publication.

4. Matters arising from the Closed Council meeting held on 11 September 2019 and rolling actions list

4.1. The Council **noted** the actions list and **approved** the completion of actions where they were marked as 'suggested complete'.

4.2. The Council requested that when an action had passed its due date, but was in hand, that the due date for its completion be updated.

5. Decisions log

5.1. The Council **noted** that, beyond the approval of the minutes, there had been no other decisions taken in between meetings.

PART TWO – ITEMS FOR DECISION AND DISCUSSION

6. Chief Executive's Report

6.1. The Chief Executive provided the Council with an update on the following topics:

Advice to Council on statutory responsibilities and delegations on the topic of designations:

6.1.1. In the event of a no-deal EU exit, legislation would require the GDC to reach a view on the comparability of qualifications following the loss of the mutual recognition of professional qualifications legislation. The Council had inquired where the discretion to undertake this lay, and were informed that the power to designate qualifications lay with the Council itself, but noted that this would need to be exercised on the advice of the Registrar.

Position of the GDC on remote orthodontics:

6.1.2. The Council heard that this topic had necessitated careful consideration as it was necessary to consider the practice in the round, rather than in the context of a single provider. The Council received a summary of the advice received and requested that the matter be brought back to Council for review in Q1 of 2020.

Update to End to End Review:

6.1.3. The Council heard that Phase 1 of the End to End Review programme had completed in June and that a modified Team Based Tasking approach was now embedded. The recruitment in Birmingham was nearly complete and the post programme projects had been largely delivered, alongside some improvements to management information to provide a richer picture. Cross skilling had not yet been delivered, but mitigations were in place, and this would form part of a larger cross-organisational piece. In relation to Phase 2, the programme was in a concept and evaluation stage.

Update on Annual Report and Accounts (ARA):

6.1.4. The 2018 ARA had been laid in UK and Scottish Parliaments on 29 October 2019. A timetable for the laying of the 2019 ARA was due to go to SLT on the 10 December 2019.

6.2. The Council **noted** the updates.

7. Strategic Risk Register Update

The Head of Risk Management & Internal Audit joined the meeting.

7.1. The Head of Risk Management & Internal Audit presented the paper, and the Council considered the current strategic risk register (SRR) and accompanying Board Assurance Framework.

7.2. This was the first time that risks had been plotted on the new risk appetite, agreed in October 2019, and using the new Board Assurance Framework. The register had been considered by the SLT and recommended to Council by the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC).

7.3. The Council **discussed** and **approved** the strategic risk register

The Head of Risk Management & Internal Audit left the meeting.

8. Staff Survey

8.1. The Executive Director, Organisational Development presented the paper, survey findings and the action plan on addressing issues raised therein.

8.2. The Council **discussed** and **noted** the key themes from the staff survey data and the proposed action plan and asked that the work be brought back to Council in early Q3 of 2020 (June Council meeting).

9. Any Other Business

9.1. The Council **noted** that benchmarking data from other regulators on payment by instalments had been shared in commercial confidence so was available for discussion in this closed session.

9.2. The Council also discussed the naming of institutions in the Review of Education paper that was due to be heard in public session the following day and agreed that this would be discussed in public session.

10. Review of the meeting

10.1. The Council noted that the papers for the public meeting were extensive, but it was a positive move that items had been moved into the public session.

10.2. There being no further business, the meeting ended at 17:05pm

Date of next meeting: 15-16 January 2019 (London)
Name of Chair: William Moyes