

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
General Dental Council
held at 12:45pm on Friday 21 April 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	
Mike Lewis	
Caroline Logan	(via MS Teams)
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 (items 10 and 11)
Krishangi Dahiya	Policy and Projects Officer (item 11 only)
Rebecca Ledwidge	Deputy Head of Governance
Rebecca Lucas	Policy Manager (item 11 only)
Colin MacKenzie	Head of Nations and Engagement (item 8 only)
Clare Paget	Associate Director, Legal (as observer for Items 10 and 11)
Joanne Rewcastle	Associate Director, Communications and Engagement
Tina Rosenow	Senior Governance Manager (as observer)
Katie Spears	Head of Governance (Secretary)

Apologies

None.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that Mike Lewis had a clashing commitment that had run over the beginning of the meeting (he attended from Item 9 onwards).

2. Declaration of interests

- 2.1 All Council Members and all staff members present made a declaration in respect of Item 8 - the remuneration disclosures in the Annual Report and Accounts 2022. All staff declared an interest in respect of Item 9 - New Ways of Working.

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

- 3.1 The full minutes of the closed meeting held on 24 February 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 19 April 2023, the Council had noted the Significant Litigation Annual Report.

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 27 March 2023.
 - b. The Statutory Panellists Assurance Committee (SPC) meeting of 8 March 2023.

7. Chief Executive's Report

- 7.1 The Chief Executive provided an update to the Council in relation to international registration, the Overseas Registration Examination (ORE), access to NHS dentistry, senior leadership development at the GDC, and performance in relation to Fitness to Practise and Registration application processing. The Council **noted** the updates.

The Head of Nations and Engagement and Associate Director, Finance joined the meeting.

8. Annual Report and Accounts (ARA) 2022

- 8.1 The Head of Nations and Engagement and Associate Director, Finance presented the final draft ARA for Council approval. The Audit and Risk Committee had scrutinised the ARA carefully and recommended this version to the Council. The timetable had been compressed this year and the ARA was planned to be laid two months' earlier than in previous years.
- 8.2 The Council discussed and **approved** the final draft ARA and noted that it would be electronically signed by the Chair and Chief Executive, alongside the letters of

representation to haysmacintyre LLP and the National Audit Office (NAO). The designed version would then be finalised, and the accounts laid in the Parliaments on 11 May 2023.

The Head of Nations and Engagement and Associate Director, Finance left the meeting.

9. New Ways of Working Update

- 9.1 The Chief Executive presented that paper outlining an update on organisational ways of working. The Chair noted that this update was presented for information – as the operational running of the organisation was a matter for the Executive to deliver, with appropriate strategic oversight from the Council. The Council **noted** the update.

The Associate Director, Policy and Research joined the meeting.

10. Regulatory Reform – International Registration

- 10.1 The Associate Director, Policy and Research presented the paper outlining the updated timetable for developing and consulting on new Rules and the longer-term ambition for international registration.
- 10.2 The Council heard that the recent section 60 order had brought with it a power to make Rules in respect of the Overseas Registration Examination (ORE) and international registration for DCPs. It has also ended the loophole that had allowed overseas qualified dentists to register as DCPs. The current system of international registration was a patchwork of routes; there was near automatic registration for EU qualified dentists, the ORE for those qualified elsewhere and a paper assessment for overseas qualified DCPs. The organisation planned to develop a more coherent framework that would maintain public safety and operate as efficiently as possible. There was a plan to gather evidence to enable an informed consideration of different models of assessment, whether that be via examination, longitudinal assessment or using provisional registration. There were elements of the work that were outside of the control of the organisation, such as the outcome of the review of the standstill provisions for EU qualified dentists by the Secretary of State. Additionally, trade agreements – for example, the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) agreement – would impact the framework.
- 10.3 In relation to the next steps for this work, the teams were drafting and consulting on two new sets of Rules that would be presented to the Council later in the year, and on longer term policy reform, based on the evidence gathered. The Rules that would come to the Council were considered to be transitional provisions, which would be put in place to govern the system whilst longer term plans were developed.
- 10.4 The Council **noted** the timetable for the work and welcomed a fuller discussion of the wider policy development piece later in the year. The Council **noted** the update.

The Policy Manager and Policy and Projects Officer joined the meeting.

11. Regulatory Reform – Draft s.60 Consultation Response (on regulating Anaesthesia Associates and Physician Associates)

- 11.1 The Associate Director, Policy and Research and Policy Manager presented the paper outlining the draft response to the recent consultation from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) in respect of a section 60 order amending legislation in respect of the regulation of Anaesthesia Associates and Physician Associates.
- 11.2 There were several areas to highlight in respect of the GDC's response to the consultation. These were annexed to the paper and the Council **discussed** them and

approved the proposed response. It would be submitted before the closing date on 16 May 2023 and shared with the wider dental community.

The Associate Director, Policy and Research, Policy Manager and Policy and Projects Officer left the meeting.

12. Any Other Business

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