Abbreviated Minutes of the Meeting of the
General Dental Council
held at 11.30am on Friday 16 December 2022
in Closed Session via MS Teams

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
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:

Osama Ammar              Interim Associate Director, Policy and Research (item 8)
Lee Bird                  Senior Governance Manager (throughout the meeting)
Kristen Bottrell          Policy Manager (item 12)
Sam Clements             Head of Risk Management and Internal Audit (item 9)
Rebecca Ledwidge        Deputy Head of Governance (throughout the meeting)
Rebecca Lucas            Policy Manager (item 12)
Joanne Rewcastle          Associate Director, Communications and Engagement (throughout the meeting)
Ross Scales              Head of Upstream Regulation (item 12)

Apologies

Katie Spears            Head of Governance
1. **Welcome and apologies for absence**
   1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies from Katie Spears.

2. **Declaration of interests**
   2.1 All present declared an interest in respect of Item 11 – Lessons Learned in respect of Payment by Instalments.
   2.2 Mike Lewis and Donald Burden declared an interest in respect of Item 10 – Council Member Reappointments and withdrew from the meeting for this item.

3. **Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**
   3.1 The full minutes of the closed meeting held on 21 October 2022 had been approved via correspondence.

4. **Matters Arising and Rolling Actions List**
   4.1 The Council agreed that the item marked ‘suggested complete’ should be considered complete and noted that one action remained live.

5. **Decisions Log**
   5.1 The Council noted that one matter had been considered and noted via correspondence on 14 December 2022.

6. **Minutes of the meetings of the Non-Statutory Committees**
   6.1 The minutes of the 16 November 2022 Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) meeting would be circulated after the meeting.
   6.2 The Remuneration and Nomination Committee (RemNom) had met on 27 October 2022.
   6.3 The Finance and Performance Committee (FPC) had met on 24 November 2022.
   6.4 The Council noted the minutes of the non-statutory Committee meetings.

7. **Chief Executive's Report**
   7.1 The Chief Executive provided an update on [legislative reform and the Professional Standards Authority (PSA) Review].
   7.2 The Council noted the updates.
   The Interim Associate Director, Policy and Research joined the meeting.

8. **International Registration**
   8.1 The Interim Associate Director, Policy and Research presented the updated position on international registration and outlined the pathway to consulting on draft rules in respect of the Overseas Registration Examination (ORE). The paper sought to provide the Council with an overview of the legal framework changes that the team anticipated. It was highlighted that the timetable was based on a number of contingent factors. The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) was planning to launch a consultation with regulators on mutual recognition arrangements and The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) was commencing a focused consultation on the future of the standstill arrangements. Both consultations were due to launch in January 2023.
   8.2 The Council noted the updated position on international registration.
The Interim Associate Director, Policy and Research left the meeting.
The Head of Risk Management and Internal Audit joined the meeting.

9. **Strategic Risk Appetite**

9.1 The Head of Risk Management and Internal Audit presented the proposed strategic risk appetite to the Council for approval. It was outlined that the risk appetite was set on an annual basis and it was the Council’s responsibility but the proposal had been considered by the Executive Management Team (EMT) and the ARC.

9.2 The Council discussed the [proposed approach, outlined some concerns with the current model and] asked for a revised proposal to be drawn up and go back through the appropriate governance channels.

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

Donald Burden and Mike Lewis left the meeting for this item.

10. **Council Member Reappointments**

10.1 The Senior Governance Manager presented the paper which proposed that Donald Burden and Mike Lewis were both recommended to be reappointed to the Council for a [second term of office].

10.2 The Council approved the recommendations for reappointment.

10.3 The recommendations would then be submitted to the Professional Standards Authority for scrutiny and onwards to the Privy Council, [with a request] for the proposed reappointments to be made.

Donald Burden and Mike Lewis re-joined the meeting.

11. **Council – Lessons Learned on Payment by Instalments**

11.1 [The Council discussed the progress made by the Executive and Council since the work that took place around approving and implementing the scheme to allow payment of the Annual Retention Fee by instalments].

The Head of Upstream Regulation and two Policy Managers joined the meeting.

12. **Promoting Professionalism**

12.1 The Executive Director, Strategy, the Head of Upstream Regulation and two Policy Managers presented revised proposals, following feedback from the Council in October 2022. The team set out that principles were an element of a wider framework and there was a need to strike the right balance between the principles, the guidance and supporting materials in developing a framework to support registrants in their professionalism. The team were prioritising areas for supplementing guidance, there would be more supporting materials on certain topics. At this stage, the team were only seeking the Council’s approval to proceed with exploration and further development of the professionalism framework.

12.2 The Council discussed the [proposals and] agreed that the exploratory work should be undertaken but the Council was not committed to moving to a principles-based approach.

13. **Any Other Business**

13.1 There was no other business, and the meeting was closed at 3.30pm.