

Stakeholder engagement report – July 2020

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Type of business	To note.
For Council only	Public session
Issue	This paper provides Council with a summary of stakeholder engagement activities and new appointments during the reference period. The aim is to be transparent as well as providing additional context to inform strategic discussions and decision making.
Recommendation	To note.

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NB: the calendar has not been included, as all face to face engagements have been cancelled.

1. Stakeholder appointments

- 1.1. The [College of General Dentistry has appointed its first ambassadors](#). They are the Rt. Hon. Sir Mike Penning MP, Professor Dame Parveen Kumar DBE and Dr Shelagh Farrell FFGDP(UK). They will support engagement of the College in society, and promote its influence in the interests of patients, building trust and confidence in the dental professions.
- 1.2. On 17 June, the [Faculty of General Dental Practice UK announced](#) the inauguration of two new vice deans, Susan Nelson MFGDP(UK) and Onkar Dhanoya FFGDP(UK). The new vice deans were elected by the Board for one-year terms, and they succeed Abhi Pal FFGDP(UK) and Roshni Karia MJDF RCS(Eng).
- 1.3. [MDDUS has appointed Stephen Henderson](#) as their new Head of Dental Division.
- 1.4. The [General Osteopathic Council has announced the permanent appointment of Matthew Redford](#) as its permanent Chief Executive and Registrar, who has been in the post in an acting role since September 2019.
- 1.5. The Home Secretary Priti Patel announced on 23 June the appointment of Professor Brian Bell as the new chair of the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC). Professor Bell was appointed as interim chair in March this year, and has been a member since February 2018.
- 1.6. The [government has appointed Clive Dix as the Deputy Chair of the UK's Vaccine Taskforce](#) to help lead efforts to find and manufacturer a coronavirus vaccine. The vaccine taskforce was established in March 2020 and reports to Business Secretary Alok Sharma.
- 1.7. Micheál Martin is the [new Irish Taoiseach](#) after Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael and the Green Party brokered a deal to form a government after the inconclusive elections in February.

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2. Stakeholder engagement report

External engagement cancellations

- 2.1. Following government guidance, all external stakeholder engagements involving GDC staff members were cancelled up to 30 June 2020. During this time, we continued to undertake some engagement, using online or teleconference facilities.

UK-wide engagement

- 2.2. The Interim Head of Communications and Engagement had a catch-up meeting with Julie Deverick, President, and Diane Rochford, incoming President of the British Society of Dental Hygiene and Therapy on 26 May to discuss the ARF and Council's decision not to implement payment by instalments.
- 2.3. The Interim Head of Communications and Engagement held separate catch-up meetings with Debbie Hemington, Chair of the British Association of Dental Therapists, Fiona

Ellwood, Patron of the Society of British Dental Nurses, and Pam Swain, Chief Executive of the British Association of Dental Nurses on 27 May to discuss the ARF and Council's decision not to implement payment by instalments.

- 2.4. The Interim Head of Communications and Engagement had a catch-up meeting with Amanda Borthwick from the Orthodontic Therapist Society on 29 May to discuss the ARF and Council's decision not to implement payment by instalments.
- 2.5. The Chair of Council and Executive Director, Strategy, had an introductory meeting with Alan Bowkett, Chairman, and Tom Riall, Chief Executive at IDH Group/MyDentist on 10 June.
- 2.6. The Head of Education Policy and Quality Assurance and the Head of Registration attended a meeting chaired by Fiona Ellwood, Patron of the Society of British Dental Nurses on 12 June to discuss developments in dental care professional education. The meeting was also attended by Jennifer Lowe, Head of the Dental School at Coatbridge College, Clare Faulkner, Lead Dental Nursing Lecturer at Walsall College, student representative Amy Rawsthorne and Tracy Wallis, Senior Dental Care Professional Teaching Fellow at Portsmouth University.
- 2.7. The Head of Education Policy and Quality Assurance met with Professor Mark Hector, President of the Association of Science Educators in Dentistry on 23 June to discuss the review of the specialty curricular.
- 2.8. The Head of Education Policy and Quality Assurance met with Sarah Murray, Chair of the Director's Group of Dental Hygiene and Therapy on 26 June to seek a wider meeting with all those who head hygiene and therapy programmes. This has been arranged for 16 July to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on training in 2020 and the expected impact from 2021.
- 2.9. The Head of Education Policy and Quality Assurance attended a meeting of the Dental Foundation training undergraduate liaison group on 29 June to provide an update on GDC's research activities that relate to the transition to dental foundation/vocational training and dental training in general, including the preparedness for practice rapid evidence assessment and thematic review.
- 2.10. The Interim Executive Director, FTP Transition and the Head of Right Touch Regulation met with the British Dental Association on 29 June to discuss relevant policy issues.
- 2.11. The Head of Education Policy and Quality Assurance attended the Joint Committee for Postgraduate Training in Dentistry (JCPTD) for their monthly meeting on 1 July. This was a regular monthly meeting to discuss issues affecting training in dentistry. Discussions included the memoranda of understanding the GDC has with JCPTD/JMDF for specialty assessments and updating the publication of the joint education statement, produced in March.
- 2.12. The Head of FTP Case Progression attended the Secure settings and prison managed clinical network meeting on 4 July providing an overview of the FTP process.

- 2.13. The Head of Education Policy and Quality Assurance attended the Dental Teachers of Professionalism Council Meeting on 6 July providing an update on the GDC's research around professionalism and preparedness for practice, and held a general discussion around education and training in the 2020/21 academic year.
- 2.14. The Acting Executive Director, FTP Transition, met with Stephen Henderson, Head of Dental Division and Dental Adviser at the Medical and Dental Defence Union of Scotland (MDDUS) on 7 July. Discussions included FTP issues including case progression, clinical reviews, Rule 4 observations and the use of remote hearings.

England

- 2.15. Our Interim Head of Upstream Regulation attended the Health Education England Credentials Roundtable on 25 June, where discussions included the definition principles and prioritisation of healthcare credentials and the proposed structure of credential development.

Scotland

- 2.16. The Head of Scottish Affairs had an introductory meeting with Professor Jeremy Bagg, Head of Dental School at the University of Glasgow on 27 May. Discussions included issues with regards to the next academic year, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Online teaching had gone remarkably smoothly, but the lack of clinical practice for students was a major concern because it was so fundamental to the development of dental students.
- 2.17. The Head of Scottish Affairs met with Andrew Edwards, Dental Dean at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow on 28 May. Discussions included how the RCPSG has paused its core business of education and assessment and were actively looking at novel ways to resume activities online by the Autumn, focussing initially on UK Members and Fellows and then on their international membership.
- 2.18. The Head of Scottish Affairs continued his fortnightly COVID-19 catch up meetings with the Scottish heads of the General Medical Council (GMC), Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) and General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) from 28 May to 1 July. Topics under discussion included the restrictions that were being put in place as hearings reopened at the NMC, the deferral of revalidation by one year for doctors and the production of a summary report of issues from across the four regulators.
- 2.19. The Head of Scottish Affairs met with Professor Mark Hector, Dean of Dental School, University of Dundee on 9 June. Discussions included how all theoretical teaching would be online throughout the next semester, how it was not envisaged that any clinical practice will restart for students until January 2021 and the concerns around their ability to qualify any students next year.
- 2.20. The Head of Scottish Affairs met with Anne Boyd, Qualifications Manager, and Laura Kincaid, Qualifications Development Officer, of the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) on 30 June. Discussions included the impact of COVID-19 and how the SQA had been 'firefighting' to ensure that assessment and certification could proceed. Successful arrangements have been developed for the 2020 cohort of dental nurses.

- 2.21. The Head of Scottish Affairs met with Paul Cushley, Director of Dentistry at NHS National Services Scotland on 6 July. Discussions included how some practices in Scotland (in particular small practices owned by corporates) had not opened because they had concluded that it was financially more attractive for them to remain closed, and to continue to furlough staff whilst not incurring labour costs etc. There was, therefore, some concern that there may be limited access to patient care.
- 2.22. The Head of Scottish Affairs met with Phil Grigor, National Director in Scotland, British Dental Association, on 7 July. Discussions included how routine, non-AGP dental care in Scotland would resume on 13 July, and the BDA's concerns that practices would start to incur unsustainable costs, such as un-furloughing staff, whilst being unable to undertake AGP work.
- 2.23. The Head of Scottish Affairs attended the Academic Board for Dentistry in Scotland on 9 July which was attended by 20 senior participants, including the heads of Scotland's dental and hygiene and therapy schools, the Scottish Funding Council, the Scottish Dental Clinical Effectiveness Programme (SDCEP), and the Scottish Government's workforce planning unit. Discussions included the communication strategy for all current dental students, including details of how the messages may vary between years, and the strategy for graduating the 2021 cohort, including the possibility of an extended year, or a transitional year.

Wales

- 2.24. The Head of Welsh Affairs met with Chris Woods, Project Manager, All Wales Faculty of Dental Care Professionals on 2 June.
- 2.25. The Head of Welsh Affairs met with Caroline Seddon, Director of the British Dental Association in Wales, on 9 June. Discussions included the financial issues facing practices reiterating their member survey which found that 50% of practices couldn't survive more than three months. Members were also particularly unhappy regarding the situation with the ARF and felt that the GDC was 'out of touch' and 'squandering' its improved relationship with the profession, which had been built over the last few years.
- 2.26. The Head of Welsh Affairs continued the biweekly regulation catch ups with the Welsh representatives from the GMC, NMC and GPhC from 9-23 June.
- 2.27. The Head of Welsh Affairs had an introductory meeting with Professor Barbara Chadwick, Clinical Lead for South Wales on 10 June.
- 2.28. The Head of Welsh Affairs met with Professor Ivor Chestnutt, Joint Acting Head of School, Cardiff University on 16 June. Discussions included key concerns for the dental school around how fourth-year students would be going into their final year in September, with very limited clinical time due to COVID-19. Potential solutions discussed included increasing the amount of teaching time, extending the academic year into July and August with graduation in September/October. Dental School were seeking national guidelines, with possible GDC involvement.

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3. External webinars

3.1. Members of the Strategy Directorate participated in the following webinars:

- LDC Confederation 'Resuming Dentistry' on 26 June, which included presentations on the challenges facing the profession from Sara Hurley, Chief Dental Officer for England, Dr Sandra White, Director of Dental Public Health at Public Health England and John Milne, Senior National Dental Advisor at the Care Quality Commission.
- Royal Society of Medicine, In Conversation Live with Jeremy Hunt MP (Chair of the Health and Social Care Committee) on 8 July.

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