

**Confirmed Minutes of the Meeting of the
General Dental Council
held at 11.30am on Thursday 2 December 2021
in Closed Session held via MS Teams**

Council Members present:

Lord Harris	Chair
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
Sarah Keyes	Executive Director, Organisational Development
Lisa Marie Williams	Executive Director, Legal and Governance

Staff and Others in attendance:

Sam Bache	Head of Finance and Procurement (item 9)
Lee Bird	Interim Deputy Head of Governance
Sam Clements	Head of Risk Management and Internal Audit (item 8)
Kerry Murison	Policy Manager (item 7)
Joanne Rewcastle	Head of Communications and Engagement
Tyrrell Wright	Interim Head of Governance (Secretary)

Apologies:

Terry Babbs
Crispin Passmore

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Terry Babbs and Crispin Passmore.

2. Declaration of interests

- 2.1 In relation to the Defined Benefit Pension Plan (item 9), a declaration was made by the Chief Operating Officer, and in relation to the Council Member Reappointment (item 10), a declaration was made by the Council Member concerned. It was agreed that they would withdraw from the meeting for item 10.

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

- 3.1 The full minutes of the closed meeting held on 21 October 2021 had been **approved via correspondence**.

4. Matters Arising and Rolling Actions List

- 4.1 The Council **noted** that there were no outstanding actions.

5. Decision Log

- 5.1 The Council **noted** that there were no decisions taken by correspondence since the last meeting.

6. Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive provided the Council with an update on:

Regulatory Reform: KPMG Review

- 6.1 The Council was **informed** that KPMG had provided a confidential update on its review of the number of healthcare regulators, as commissioned by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC).
- 6.2 The GDC would continue to monitor closely the review's progress, share advice and expertise in relation to dental regulation, and emphasise the importance of legislative reform to the current regulatory framework.

S.60 Legislative Reform

- 6.3 The Council was **updated** on legislative reform under S.60.

Overseas Registration Examinations / International Registration

- 6.4 The Council was **informed** that, following postponements due to Covid-19, the GDC was planning to re-start the Overseas Registration Examinations (ORE) early in 2022. The Council was reminded that the ORE process was currently delivered in two stages, comprising a theory stage and a practical stage. There was a legislative requirement to sit both within five years, which supported the suspension of both parts during the last year, when it had not been possible to carry out the practical stage.
- 6.5 The Council **heard** that in order to comply with Covid-19 protocols, the practical stage of ORE would cost more to run. The GDC would therefore incur a larger loss on the ORE than in recent years, since the price the GDC could charge ORE candidates was set in legislation and not within the GDC's gift to change. The plan was to hold a number of exams in 2022 to try to decrease the backlog of those wanting to sit the exam. A small number of candidates who had sat the theory part of the ORE would not be able to sit the practical exam within the five-year period; whilst this had a high impact for those individuals, the numbers were not significant overall.
- 6.6 The Council **heard** that the Registration and Strategy teams were continuing to work on the proposed legislative changes regarding international registration. It was highlighted

that the interim measures put in place due to Brexit were due to fall away at the end of 2022.

6.7 The Council **noted** the update.

7. GDC Corporate Strategy 2023-2025

The Policy Manager joined the meeting.

7.1 The Executive Director, Strategy, and the Policy Manager, introduced the paper, which provided an overview of the output from the previous Council workshop discussion, and sought agreement to the proposed approach to the development of the new strategy.

7.2 The Council **noted** the update and **agreed** the proposed approach to developing the new strategy.

The Policy Manager left the meeting.

8. Strategic Risk Register and Annual Risk Assurance Map

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

8.1 The Head of Risk Management and Internal Audit introduced the item. In summarising the Strategic Risk Register (SRR), the Council was informed that there were eight active risks on the SRR, that no new risks had been added to the SRR, and that one risk was recommended for dormancy. Since the Council last considered the SRR, two risks had their risk score increased and four risks were outside of appetite.

8.2 The Council was updated that, since the most recent Audit and Risk Committee meeting, where the SRR was also considered, the EMT had held a risk horizon scanning workshop. Whilst this workshop had not resulted in any new proposed strategic risks, updates to mitigations would be included within the next update.

8.3 The Council **approved** the SRR and Risk Assurance Map.

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

9. DB Pension Plan

The Head of Finance and Procurement joined the meeting.

9.1 The Council was updated on, and took decisions related to, the Defined Benefit Pension Scheme.

The Head of Finance and Procurement left the meeting.

10. Council Member Reappointment

The Council Member concerned left the meeting.

10.1 The Executive Director, Legal and Governance presented the recommendation that the Council Member be put forward for a further term on the Council. Subject to the Council agreeing to the proposal, the required documents would be submitted to the PSA, and a request made to the Privy Council.

10.2 The Council **approved** the recommendation to recommend to Privy Council the reappointment of the Council Member for a further term of office, lasting three years.

11. Any Other Business

11.1 There was no other business.

The meeting was closed at 1.10pm.