

**Confirmed Minutes of the Meeting of the  
General Dental Council  
held at 09:30am on Thursday 21 October 2021  
in Closed Session held via MS Teams**

**Council Members present:**

Lord Harris	Chair
Terry Babbs	
Donald Burden	
Anne Heal	
Angie Heilmann	
Jeyanthi John	
Sheila Kumar	
Mike Lewis	
Caroline Logan	
Simon Morrow	
Crispin Passmore	
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:**

Joanne Rewcastle	Head of Communications and Engagement
Tyrrell Wright	Interim Head of Governance
Lee Bird	Interim Deputy Head of Governance (Secretariat)
Elizabeth Gonzales Malaga	GDC's Clinical Fellow (Observer - throughout the meeting)

**Apologies:**

None.

**1. Welcome and apologies for absence**

1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that there were no apologies.

## 2. Declaration of interests

- 2.1 In relation to the items on the substantive agenda, there were no declarations of interest. In relation to the correspondence agenda, registrant members declared an interest in the update on specialty developments, noting that there had been no decision to be taken.

## 3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

- 3.1 The Council **noted** that the full minutes of the closed meeting held on 23 September 2021 had been approved via correspondence and that the abbreviated minutes of the same closed meeting were due to be considered at the public session later the same day.

## 4. Matters Arising and Rolling Actions List

- 4.1 The Council **noted** the actions list.

## 5. Decision Log

- 5.1 The Council had considered two papers by correspondence:
- a. Report on Lessons Learned on Payments by Instalments - this paper had been **noted**.
  - b. Update on Specialty Developments - this paper had been **noted**.

## 6. Chief Executive's Report

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

### PSA Review

The Council were informed that the PSA had begun their annual review of the performance of the GDC. The Council were reminded that this review assessed the prior year of data against 18 Standards. The Executive would provide an estimate of how many Standards were likely to be retained or gained in due course.

### Fitness to Practise (FtP)

- 6.2 The Council were updated on current FtP caseload figures. The Council heard that incoming cases over the past couple of months had been broadly stable but that the FtP team remained under resourced to cope with the existing caseload. The proposed solution was to provide a "surge" of new resources to increase capacity, create resilience, and progress cases.
- 6.3 The Executive Management Team had agreed that a risk provision should be proposed in the Costed Corporate Plan 2022-2024 to fund additional posts. The Council heard that the costs had not been incorporated into the 2022 budget because the business case could not be finalised in time. Once the FtP team had achieved a more manageable caseload, resources would be reviewed.
- 6.4 The Council heard that the proposed new resources were a mixture of junior and management posts.
- 6.5 The Council **noted** the update.

## 7. Communications Principles - Costed Corporate Plan (CCP), Budget, Annual Retention Fee Levels

- 7.1 The Executive Director, Strategy and the Head of Communications and Engagement, presented the paper outlining the updated proposed communications approach to the key

decisions that the Council would take later in the day on the Costed Corporate Plan 2022-2024, Budget 2022 and Annual Retention Fee (ARF) levels.

7.2 The Council **heard** that the revised Principles included the feedback which had been given at the September 2021 Council meeting.

7.3 The Council **noted** the update.

## **8. Any Other Business**

8.1 None.

## **9. Review of the Meeting**

9.1 The Council agreed that this would no longer form a standing item on meeting agenda and instead any feedback / suggested improvements would be provided individually to the Board Secretariat, or directly to the Chair.

*The meeting was closed at 10:22am.*