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)**
     
     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.
     
     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.

6.2 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.