

**Minutes of the Special Meeting of the
General Dental Council
held at 14:00pm on Wednesday 5 May 2021
in Closed Session held on MS Teams**

Council Members present:

William Moyes	Chair
Terry Babbs	
Catherine Brady	
Donald Burden	
Anne Heal	
Jeyanthi John	
Sheila Kumar	
Mike Lewis	
Caroline Logan	
Simon Morrow	
Crispin Passmore	
Laura Simons	

Executive Directors in attendance:

Ian Brack	Chief Executive and Registrar
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 in attendance:

Colin Mackenzie	Interim Head of Communications and Engagement
Osama Ammar	Head of Public Policy (item 3 only)
Rebecca Cooper	Head of GDC Policy and Research Programme (item 3 only)
Katie Spears	Head of Governance
Rebecca Ledwidge	Secretariat Manager

Apologies:

Gurvinder Soomal

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that there were apologies from Gurvinder Soomal.

2. Declaration of interests

- 2.1 In relation to the substantive agenda, all Council Members and EMT Members declared an interest in the regulatory reform item.

3. Regulatory Reform

- 3.1 A paper was presented by the Executive Director, Strategy and the Head of Public Policy that outlined the proposed organisational response to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) consultation on regulatory reform.
- 3.2 The Executive Director, Strategy outlined the context for the consultation and set out that there were three concurrent streams of regulatory change envisaged at present. These included:
- a. A change to the legislative operating model for all healthcare regulators, which was the focus of this current consultation, and which would be delivered through a series of section 60 orders to amend the primary legislation of the individual regulators. Detailed consultation around the specifics of the legislation for the GDC would be expected later in the year, after the broad principles contained in this consultation had been decided upon.
 - b. Changes to the international registration framework were envisaged to take place through a specific section 60 order. This element of reform would likely be impacted by the planned review of the regulation of professional qualification by the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).
 - c. Thirdly, earlier in the year the DHSC had announced a White Paper on regulatory reform about the structure of regulators. This would lead to review both of the number of regulators and the professions which were subject to regulation.
- 3.3 The Council was asked to consider whether its priority was legislative reform – given the likelihood that this change would have greater impact on public protection – or organisational reforms. This view could inform the final draft response.
- 3.4 The Council was invited to discuss the main areas of reform that were welcomed and those that ought to be challenged. The Council noted that the team would welcome any comments on the detail in the annexes to the paper via correspondence.
- 3.5 The Council **discussed** the details of the proposals and provided strategic direction to the team on the following topics; potential constraints that might arise through reform, the tone of the organisational response, unitary Boards, intent in proof of title offences, Grounds of Action in Fitness to Practise, Interim Measures, the PSA's review powers and transparency.
- 3.6 The Council noted that the context of the broader regulatory reform landscape would require careful monitoring and that any proposals around the number of regulators and professions to be subject to regulation would require careful consideration and a thoughtful response.
- 3.7 The Chair noted that there appeared to be broad consensus around most of the substantive areas discussed today and that, whilst the Council would be asked to approve the final draft response, this could likely take place via correspondence.

4. Any Other Business

- 4.1 There was no other business.

5. Review of the Meeting

- 5.1 The Council discussed the quality of the presentation and noted that it had been helpful to have a single-issue session to focus discussion.

The meeting was closed at 15:40pm