

News and updates

View from the Chair: highlights from Council's public meeting, annual renewal has opened for dental care professionals, and the public consultation on our Corporate Strategy continues

GDC Chair, Lord Toby Harris, shares details from the first live-streamed meeting of Council held on Friday last week, including the decision to approve the improved Scope of Practice Guidance, which will come into effect in October.

[View from the Chair](#)

The piece below was sent to registered dental care professionals only.

Annual renewal period is now open

The annual renewal for dental care professionals is now open. To complete your renewal, you will need to:

- pay the Annual Retention Fee by 31 July
- declare you have, or will have, indemnity in place by 31 July. You must confirm you have indemnity or insurance cover in place before practising
- make your CPD statement by 28 August (with any verifiable CPD completed after 1 August counting towards your next CPD year).

If you are in the final year of your five-year cycle and need more time to complete your CPD, you can apply for a grace period before 31 July.

You might also find the [CPD myth-buster](#) useful. It includes recent changes to the CPD scheme, and was produced in collaboration with the Dental Professional Alliance.

We are also asking you to complete a short working patterns survey during the renewal period. The answers you provide will help improve understanding of current working patterns in dentistry, and support future workforce planning.

Find out more about [annual renewal](#).

A shortened version of piece below was sent to registered dental professionals, which excluded content at paragraph 2 (including bullet points).

Initial inquiries extended to include conduct concerns

We have extended our initial inquiries process to include concerns that involve isolated cases of perceived unprofessional behaviour, as part of ongoing efforts to improve timeliness and proportionality in fitness to practise investigations.

Concerns raised by a single patient about low-level misconduct that also include a low-level clinical practice issue will also be included. Some cases will be excluded, and proceed to a full investigation in the normal way, these are:

- Cases indicating a potential pattern of such behaviour.
- Cases involving a registrant who has had allegations raised about their fitness to practise within the previous 12 months.
- Cases involving more serious misconduct, such as alleged verbal abuse or severe aggression.

Theresa Thorp, Executive Director, Regulation, said:

"This new approach seeks to maintain public confidence in the professions while reducing the negative impact that lengthy investigations can have on the health and wellbeing of participants."

The streamlined approach removes indemnity checks and limits processes used to determine if there are wider concerns to be investigated. The initial inquiries process is being used when less serious issues are raised, and where seriousness can be determined by making initial inquiries with those involved.

More on the [initial inquires criteria and process](#).



Support for targeted remediation in fitness to practise

New research has found broad support for targeted remediation as part of the fitness to practise process, and a common view that it could support improvements in patient safety and the quality of care. Opinions varied on whether remediation would be an acceptable case outcome to all involved.

Stefan Czerniawski, Executive Director, Strategy, said:

"We know that fitness to practise investigations can be long, drawn out and feel overly complex in relation to the issues raised, often leading to feelings of mistrust in and fear of the process among registrants. We need to think differently if we want that to change.

"We're using these research findings to inform our thinking on whether early evidence of remediation can play a greater role in the fitness to practise process and lead to more proportionate outcomes in some cases."

The research explores remediation as an approach to addressing potential fitness to practise issues earlier in the process to support learning and development and reduce the negative impacts of lengthy investigations.

Find the [full report and key findings](#) on our website.

We want your views on supporting the dental team

Our proposed corporate strategy for the next three years sets out how, through trusted and effective regulation, we will support you to provide the right care for your patients. We plan to do more and improve how we regulate by supporting and empowering the dental team to deliver safe and effective care.

We want you to feel supported as you apply your professional judgement, free from fear of regulation, by providing updated and responsive standards and guidance, fostering a culture of learning, and adopting a more empathetic approach.

Our consultation invites views on:

- enabling effective use of the range of skills across the dental team
- developing a standards and guidance framework based on the principles of professionalism and patient needs and expectations
- providing responsive guidance on advances in dentistry
- supporting learning, where possible, in fitness to practise
- making sure we understand how the fitness to practise process is experienced, and that our teams have the tools they need to support participants.

Our [proposed corporate strategy](#) is out now for consultation. Please take some time to review our plans and respond by 21 August.

The piece above was replaced with the one below for the newsletter issued to stakeholder organisations.

What's different in our proposed corporate strategy?

Our proposed corporate strategy for the next three years is now out for consultation. We're looking for your feedback on proposals to improve the way we regulate, modernise the services we provide, and collaborate with others to create change.

Our public protection roles has not changed, and we will continue to uphold high professional standards. Our plans look to progress our current approach to supporting professionalism and fostering learning, while thinking differently about how we might promote patient safety and maintain public confidence.

So, what's different in our proposals for the next three years:

- We have a new vision; good oral health for all.

- We have set out plans to invest in modernising our registrant and renewal services to make them easier to access and easier to use.
- We want to explore the different ways that we could use fitness to practise to manage risk more effectively within our current legislation, while also ensuring that we regulate with more empathy and increase the potential for learning.
- We also want to use our position to help address issues that are affecting the public and patients. There is strength in numbers, so while being respectful of our different roles, we want to work with others to influence change.

Please review and respond to the [consultation on our next corporate strategy](#) by midnight on 21 August.

Recent news

[GDC Chair speaking at the Dental Leadership Network 17 June](#)

[Annual renewal opens for dental care professionals](#)

[GDC launches consultation on new corporate strategy to modernise regulation](#)

Information and support

[Recording and submitting CPD](#)

[Guidance on professional indemnity and insurance cover](#)

[Guidance on using social media](#)

Helpful links

[eGDC](#)

[Dental Complaints Service](#)

[Dental Professionals Hearings Service](#)