

About the Witness Support Officer

Helping you in your role as a witness at a fitness to practise hearing

Your role as a witness at a fitness to practise hearing is vital. It gives the practice committee a first-hand account of what has happened so that they can make a decision about the case.

We understand that giving evidence at a hearing can be daunting so we have appointed a Witness Support Officer to support witnesses.

The Witness Support Officer is responsible for making sure all witnesses (including the dental professional's witnesses) are properly informed and supported throughout the process.

You can get support from the Witness Support Officer at any time before, during or after attending a hearing.

The Witness Support Officer can:

- provide support over the telephone;
- help you to understand what happens during an investigation into a complaint about a dental professional;
- arrange for you to visit the hearing room on the day of the hearing, before you are due to give evidence;
- support you on the day of the hearing and be in the room while you give evidence, if you want them to be there;
- make sure we and the practice committee know about any arrangements needed for you to be able to attend the hearing (for example, if you need wheelchair access or an induction loop for your hearing aid);
- help you complete the expense forms; or
- tell you about other organisations which can provide further support.

The Witness Support Officer's service is free of charge and independent of the case and hearing.

More details about how the Witness Support Officer can help you are given in the **Witness Information Guide**. This is available on our website www.gdc-uk.org or from the Witness Support Officer.

Contact us



You can contact the Witness Support Officer by:

Email: wso@gdc-uk.org

Telephone: 020 7167 6068

Or, by post to:

Witness Support Officer
General Dental Council
37 Wimpole Street London
W1G 8DQ



The Witness Support Officer can provide support and practical help, but is not qualified to provide professional counselling or legal advice. The Witness Support Officer is also not allowed to discuss the evidence with you.