

**Confirmed Minutes of the Meeting of the General Dental Council
held at 13.15 on Friday 27 June 2025
in Closed Session at 37 Wimpole Street, London**

Council Members present:

Lord Harris (Chair)
Reshard Auladin
Ilona Blue
Anne Heal
Angie Heilmann MBE
Serbjit Kaur MBE
Sheila Kumar
Mike Lewis
Timea Milovecz
Simon Morrow
Laura Simons

Executive Team Members in attendance:

Tom Whiting	Chief Executive and Registrar
Stefan Czerniawski	Executive Director, Strategy
Gurvinder Soomal	Chief Operating Officer
Katie Spears	Executive Director, Legal and Governance
Theresa Thorp	Executive Director, Regulation

Staff and Others in attendance:

Samantha Bache	Associate Director, Finance
Luke Blakeley	Head of Registration Policy
Sam Clements	Head of Risk Management and Internal Audit
Rebecca Cooper	Associate Director, Policy and Research
Rachael Gilleard	Deputy Head of Governance (Interim)
Colin MacKenzie	Head of Nations and Engagement
Joanne Rewcastle	Associate Director, Communications & Engagement
Ian Vaughan	Head of Governance (Interim) (Secretary)

Apologies

Donald Burden, Council Member.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, including Council Members and staff.
- 1.2 Apologies were received from Donald Burden.
- 1.3 The Chair advised the Council that the membership of the Committees and the roles of the Chair were under consideration, and Members were encouraged to submit expressions of interest.

2. Declaration of interests

- 2.1 All Council Members and all staff declared an interest in Item 8 – the Annual Report and Accounts (2024) in respect of the disclosures in the remuneration report.

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

- 3.1 The full minutes of the closed meeting held on 25 April 2025 had been **approved via correspondence**.

4. Matters Arising and Rolling Actions List

- 4.1 The Council noted the update in relation to action 84 – Estates Strategy – and agreed that the action was closed.

5. Decisions Log

- 5.1 The Council **noted** that the following decisions had been taken between meetings:
 - The Council approved the proposed approach in respect of the employment status and attendant reward approach for the GDC's Associate groups.
 - The Council approved Dr Helen Phillips as the GDC's preferred candidate for the role of Chair of the GDC, and that she should be recommended to the Privy Council for appointment.

6. Minutes and key information from Non-Statutory Committees

- 6.1 There were no approved minutes from Committees for noting by the Council.

7. Chief Executive's Report

- 7.1 The Chief Executive provided an update.
- 7.2 The Council **noted** the update.

8. Annual Report and Accounts

- 8.1 The Executive Director, Strategy introduced the Annual Report and Accounts 2024 (ARA), which had been reviewed and recommended for presentation to Council by the Executive Leadership Team and the Audit and Risk Committee.
- 8.2 The National Audit Office (NAO) review was almost complete and the GDC had received the auditing certificate and letter of representation. The target laying date remained the 16 July, with the ARA scheduled to be signed off by Chair and Chief Executive on 4 July 2025.
- 8.5 The Council **approved** the final draft of the ARA, subject to some small amendments to the drafting.

9. Strategic Risk Update

- 9.1 The Head of Risk Management and Internal Audit introduced the report, which provided an update on strategic risk. The risk information supplied to the Council would alternate between a strategic risk summary, provided for this meeting, and the full Strategic Risk Register which will be presented at the next Council meeting (when Council would also be asked to consider risk appetite).
- 9.2 The Executive Leadership Team and the Audit and Risk Committee would continue to critically appraise risk with issues moving in and out of the risk appetite.
- 9.3 The Council **discussed** the contents of the paper.

10. Routes to International Registration

- 10.1 The Executive Director, Strategy introduced the paper which provided an update on recent developments in respect of international registration and outlined an approach to developing a coherent and comprehensive framework for international registration.
- 10.2 The Council heard that international registration could play an important role in the development of a sustainable workforce plan for the Government and the GDC wished to ensure it was proactively considering options in support of these aims.
- 10.3 The Council **noted** the update and the outline approach to development of a comprehensive framework for international registration and **discussed** the balance between alleviation of short-term pressures and focusing resources on achievement of long-term aims.

11. Any Other Business

- 11.1 There was none.

12. Date of Next Meetings

- 13.1 The Council **noted** the date of the Council awayday and the Council meeting on 26 September 2025 at Wimpole Street, London.

The meeting closed at 15:03 pm.