

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
General Dental Council
held at 10.30am on Friday 21 October 2022
in Closed Session at 37 Wimpole Street, London**

Council Members present:

Lord Harris	Chair
Terry Babbs	
Ilona Blue	
Donald Burden	
Anne Heal	
Angie Heilmann MBE	
Jeyanthi John	
Sheila Kumar	
Mike Lewis	
Caroline Logan	
Simon Morrow	
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
Lisa Marie Williams	Executive Director, Legal and Governance

Staff and Others in attendance:

Samantha Bache	Associate Director, Finance (item 8)
Lee Bird	Interim Deputy Head of Governance (throughout the meeting)
Dave Criddle	Head of Business Intelligence, Delivery and PMO (item 8)
Joanne Rewcastle	Associate Director, Communications and Engagement (throughout the meeting)
Katie Spears	Head of Governance (throughout the meeting)

Apologies

Dawn Bettridge

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies from Dawn Bettridge, Interim Executive Director, People and Organisational Development.

2. Declaration of interests

- 2.1 All Council Members and staff declared an interest in Item 8 – Costed Corporate Plan 2023-2025 (CCP) and Budget 2023 in respect of budgetary provision for salaries, fees, and pensions. All registrant Members declared an interest in respect of Annual Retention Fee (ARF) levels.

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

- 3.1 The full minutes of the closed meeting held on 21 September 2022 had been **approved via correspondence**.

4. Matters Arising and Rolling Actions List

- 4.1 The Council **noted** that there were no matters arising or rolling actions.

5. Decision Log

- 5.1 The Council **noted** that no decisions had been taken by correspondence since the last meeting.

6. Minutes of the meetings of the Non-Statutory Committees

- 6.1 The Council **noted** that the Finance and Performance Committee had considered the CCP and Budget by correspondence and would provide its assurance on that item as part of the main agenda. The Audit and Risk Committee had also met on 18 October 2022 to consider the appointment of external auditors and would provide its recommendation on that item in the main public agenda. There had been no other meetings of the non-statutory Committees held since the last meeting of the Council.

7. Chief Executive's Report

- 7.1 The Chief Executive provided an update to the Council on the Nursing and Midwifery Council v Somerville case.
- 7.2 The Chief Executive also provided the Council with an update on a piece of research commissioned by the GDC to gain a broader understanding of people's experience of Fitness to Practise (FtP) at the GDC. This independent research had been carried out by Hull York Medical School between October 2020 and September 2021, it featured 70 interviews with people involved in the FtP process (from staff to registrants) and it was to be proposed for publication in November 2022.
- 7.3 The Council would be sighted on the research piece, plans for its publication and any proposed key messages in advance of any publication.
- 7.4 The Chief Executive also updated the Council on the outcome of the recent procurement exercise to secure new External Auditors. This item was due to be discussed in the public session of Council later in the day.
- 7.5 The Council **noted** the updates.
- The Associate Director, Finance and the Head of Business Intelligence, Delivery and PMO joined the meeting.

8. Costed Corporate Plan (CCP) 2023-25 and Budget 2023

- 8.1 The Chief Operating Officer, Associate Director, Finance and Head of Business Intelligence, Delivery and PMO presented the most recent iteration of the CCP and

Budget for discussion, ahead of the discussion in the public session of the Council later in the day.

- 8.2 The Council heard that the budget had been reviewed following the most recent announcement from the Chancellor
- 8.3 The Council noted that this budget was very lean and that items that arose in year that were not formally provided for within it would have to be funded from free reserves.
- 8.4 The Accounting Officer provided his advice in line with the papers and noted the challenge for the organisation in setting a budget in such an uncertain climate, the Council could, however, take assurance from the way in which the organisation had matured in this iteration of the planning process. He noted that the budget was robust and provided appropriate resource and capacity to deliver the organisation's strategic objectives.
- 8.5 The Council noted where the advice had been updated or was new:
- 8.6 The Chair of the FPC noted that this was the sixth budget that he had scrutinised during his tenure at the GDC, and it had been the most challenging one. He noted that it was highly likely that there would be calls on reserves, but the Committee had tightly scrutinised each iteration of the work and were confident in the advice of the Accounting Officer. The Committee was able to recommend the CCP and Budget to the Council for approval.
- 8.7 The Chair of the FPC noted that the Committee would continue to scrutinise the crystallisation of financial and performance risk, and the attendant issues or opportunities of it, in future Committee meetings.
- 8.8 The Council discussed and **noted** the work and that it intended to approve the CCP and Budget in the public session later in the day.

The Associate Director, Finance and the Head of Business Intelligence, Delivery and PMO left the meeting.

9. Any Other Business

- 9.1 There was no other business, and the meeting was closed at 11:55am.