

Unconfirmed

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
General Dental Council
held at 9.00am on Thursday 25 July 2019
in Closed Session
at 37 Wimpole Street, London, W1G 8DQ**

Council Members present:

William Moyes (Chair)
Terry Babbs (Senior Independent Member)
Anne Heal
Caroline Logan
Catherine Brady
Crispin Passmore
Geraldine Campbell
Jeyanthi John
Kirstie Moons
Margaret Kellett
Sheila Kumar (items 1 to 9 only)
Simon Morrow

Executive Directors in attendance:

Ian Brack Chief Executive and Registrar
Matthew Hill Executive Director, Strategy
Gurvinder Soomal Executive Director, Registration and Corporate Resources
Tom Scott Executive Director, FtP Transition
Lisa Marie Williams Executive Director, Legal and Governance

Staff in attendance:

Ian Jackson Director for Scotland
Lucy Chatwin Head of People Services (standing in for Executive Director, Organisational Development)
Colin Mackenzie Acting Head of Communications and Engagement
Sam Clements Head of Risk Management and Internal Audit (item 7 only)
Rebecca Cooper Head of GDC Policy and Research Programme (items 8 & 9 only)
Elaine Dunlop Programme and Portfolio Manager (item 8 only)
Melissa Sharp Head of In-House Legal Advisory Service (item 9 only)
Richard Drummond Head of Public Policy (item 9 only)
Katie Spears Interim Head of Governance (Secretary)
Janet Adeyemi Governance Manager
Paula Woodward Pfister Governance Consultant

In attendance:

Steven Picken Deloitte (Council Effectiveness)

PART ONE – PRELIMINARY ITEMS

1. Opening remarks and apologies for absence

- 1.1. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced new attendees.
- 1.2. There were no apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of interest

- 2.1. All staff declared an interest in Item 6, Estates Strategy Programme Update.

3. Approval of minutes of the previous meetings

- 3.1. Council noted that draft abbreviated minutes for the meeting of 28 March 2019 had appeared on the meeting agenda in error. The finalised minutes had been circulated in advance of the meeting by the new Interim Head of Governance, as directed by Council in the meeting of 30 May 2019. This action was now complete. The Chair **agreed** to withdraw this item from the agenda.
- 3.2. In relation to the closed Council meeting of 30 May 2019, the draft minutes were considered.
- 3.3. Council **approved** the full minutes from the closed Council meeting held on the 30 May 2019 subject to amendments.
- 3.4. The Chair outlined that the abbreviated minutes from the closed Council meeting held on 30 May 2019 were excessively full and required further abbreviation. It was suggested that there ought to be one set of minutes, with sensitive or personal information appropriately redacted within the public document.

ACTION: Interim Head of Governance to review the abbreviated minutes from the closed Council meeting held on 30 May 2019, abbreviate them appropriately and bring them back before Council for approval at the next Council meeting.

ACTION: Interim Head of Governance to review the approach to closed Council minute drafting before the next Council meeting.

4. Matters arising from the Closed Council meeting held on 30 May 2019 and rolling actions list

- 4.1. Council **noted** the actions list and **approved** the completion of actions as recommended.
- 4.2. The Chair said that he had requested that the Governance team review the rolling actions from 2019 to date, to check that all were completed and raise any that were outstanding.
ACTION: Interim Head of Governance to conduct a review of the rolling actions of 2019 to date and report back to Council in October 2019.
- 4.3. The Chief Executive and Registrar provided an oral update on the position in relation to the Annual Report and Accounts of the GDC ('ARA'). Council members were reminded that this work had been delayed due to a decision by the Comptroller and Auditor General ('C&AG') who had required additional restatement of previous income in the accounts.
- 4.4. Council recognised that, although it was disappointing that it had not been possible to lay the ARA before Parliament rose, it was unavoidable. Council **noted** that the Accounting Officer intended to write to the Permanent Secretaries of the Department of Health and Social Care ('DHSC') and the Privy Council to briefly outline the position in relation to the delay in the ARA being laid before Parliament.

5. Decisions log

- 5.1. The Council **noted** that there were no decisions taken between meetings.

PART TWO – ITEMS FOR DECISION AND DISCUSSION

6. Estates Strategy Programme Update

- 6.1. The Executive Director, Registration and Corporate Resources, Gurvinder Soomal updated the Council on the implementation of the Estates Strategy and presented a current organisational chart, showing the locations of all GDC teams as of 1 July 2019.

ACTION: Executive Director, Registration and Corporate Resources to present an organisational chart, showing staff locations by Directorate, in the October 2019 Council meeting and quarterly thereafter.

ACTION: Estates Strategy Programme team to present to Council a look back review of the Estates Strategy after the close of the Estates project. The Council noted the contents of the paper presented and the progress made.

7. Strategic Risk Update

- 7.1. Sam Clements, Head of Risk Management and Internal Audit, presented an update on the Strategic Risk Register ('SRR') of May 2019, which had been approved by the SLT on 11 June 2019 and noted by the Audit & Risk Committee ('ARC') on 19 June 2019.
- 7.2. Council discussed whether or not it should approve the SRR given that work identified to amend the risk appetite had not yet taken place.
- 7.3. Council noted that there were a number of measures being delivered by the organisation to mitigate against strategic risks and work being done to deliver strategic objectives. However, given the issues identified as part of this and other discussions, the Council **declined to approve** the SRR and instead **noted** it. The Chair of ARC and the Chief Executive and Accounting Officer queried whether this was the appropriate course to take.

ACTION: Head of Risk and Internal Audit and Executive Director, FtP Transition to lead on work to improve the capturing of risk appetite, narrative commentary and separation of risk mitigations from status reports on performance within the FtP lines to be presented to FPC, ARC and then Council at the December 2019 Council Meeting.

8. Corporate Strategy 2020-22: Feedback, Review and Approval Process

- 8.1. Rebecca Cooper, Head of GDC Policy and Research Programme, and Elaine Dunlop, Programme and Portfolio Manager, attended to present the report on the approval process for the Corporate Strategy 2020-2022.
- 8.2. Council were provided with a brief overview of the progress of the consultation in relation to the Corporate Strategy 2020-2022. There were a number of tasks and activities that were due to take place over the next few weeks in order to support the review and re-drafting of the Corporate Strategy in line with feedback from the consultation.
- The Council **noted** the update on the progress of the consultation and **approved** the proposal to use a combination of correspondence by email (in late August 2019) and discussion at the proposed Special Council meeting in September.
- 8.3. Sheila Kumar made her apologies at this point and left the session.

9. Promoting Professionalism, Reforming Regulation - DHSC Consultation

- 9.1. Executive Director, Strategy, Matthew Hill introduced the paper.
- 9.2. It was noted that the recent Cabinet re-shuffle had not led to the departure of the Secretary of State for Health, Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP. This provided continuity to the plans that had been outlined. It was also noted that the response was broadly in line with the policy aims of the GDC, with some areas where further discussions would be useful, including in relation to unitary boards.

- 9.3. The Council discussed the urgency of the work in this area and noted the current agenda of the new Government and its clear focus on delivery of EU Exit. Despite the unlikely possibility of this being a legislative priority, Council asked that the teams involved carry on this good work following the departure of the Executive Director, Strategy which was due to take place this week.
- 9.4. The Council **noted** the paper.

10. Horizon Scanning Report

- 10.1. Matthew Hill, Executive Director, Strategy introduced the paper.
- 10.2. There was discussion of the recent DHSC publication, the 'National Plan to phase down the use of dental amalgam in England' and the issues that it touched upon in relation to the use of dental practitioners to provide wider services.
- 10.3. Council noted the update on the PSA outcomes and requested an updated report in the public session of Council on the work being done in this respect by the organisation.
- 10.4. The Council **noted** the paper.

ACTION: The Chief Executive and Registrar to report to Council on the organisation's work in respect of PSA Standards in the Council Meeting in October 2019.

11. Any Other Business

- 11.1. There was no other business.

12. Review of the meeting

- 12.1. There being no further business, the meeting ended **at 11am**.

Date of next meeting: 4 or 11 September 2019 (Special Council Meeting to be confirmed)

Name of Chair: William Moyes