

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
General Dental Council
held at 1.00pm on Friday 24 June 2022
in Closed Session via MS Teams**

Council Members present:

Lord Harris	Chair
Terry Babbs	
Ilona Blue	
Donald Burden	
Anne Heal	
Angie Heilmann MBE	
Jeyanthi John	
Sheila Kumar	
Mike Lewis	
Simon Morrow	
Laura Simons	

Executive Directors in attendance:

Ian Brack	Chief Executive and Registrar
Gurvinder Soomal	Chief Operating Officer
Dawn Bettridge	Interim Executive Director, Organisational Development
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:

Osama Ammar	Head of Public Policy (item 9 only)
Sam Bache	Head of Finance and Procurement (item 8 only)
Lee Bird	Interim Head of Governance
Rebecca Ledwidge	Deputy Head of Governance
Colin Mackenzie	Head of Nations and Engagement (item 8 only)

Apologies

Caroline Logan	Council Member
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1. Welcome and apologies for absence

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies from Caroline Logan.

- 1.2 The Chair noted that the Council was meeting remotely rather than in Wimpole Street because of the national rail strikes.

2. Declaration of interests

- 2.1 All Council Members and members of the Executive Management Team (EMT) declared an interest in the Annual Report and Accounts (item 8).
- 2.2 All registrant Members of Council declared a further interest in relation to the text relating to the Annual Retention Fee as part of the Corporate Strategy Consultation (item 9).

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

- 3.1 The full minutes of the closed meeting held on 1 April 2022 had been **approved via correspondence**.

4. Matters Arising and Rolling Actions List

- 4.1 The Council **agreed** that the action marked as 'suggested complete' could be considered completed.

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** the updates.

7. Chief Executive's Report

- 7.1 The Chief Executive provided an update to the Council on the following topics:

Legislative reform

- 7.2 The planned order under Section 60 of the Heath Act 1999 (Section 60) modifying the existing international registration regulations would not go through Parliament until Autumn 2022.

Timetabling of Budget and CCP planning

- 7.3 The Chief Executive drew the Council's attention to the timing of planning and decision taking of the CCP and Budget.

8. Annual Report and Accounts 2021

The Head of Finance and Procurement and the Head of Nations and Engagement joined the meeting.

- 8.1 The Council **approved** the Annual Report and Accounts subject to minor amends.

9. Corporate Strategy 2023-25 - Consultation

The Interim Head of Policy and Research joined the meeting.

- 9.1 The Executive Director, Strategy outlined that the intention was to consult on the corporate strategy alongside the provisional budget. In light of current economic uncertainty and difficulty anticipating expenditure there was an important question about how to fix income for the three-year period.

- 9.2 With the endorsement of the Finance and Performance Committee (FPC), the executive was recommending that some (but not a substantial) provision be made for price changes but that the GDC highlighted that it may have to increase the ARF in response to inflation in the second and third years.
- 9.3 It was highlighted that the Council was not being asked to approve the level of the ARF at this meeting. Approval was being sought for the consultation document and the factors that underpinned it.
- 9.4 The Accounting Officer set out the challenges of predicting both income and expenditure for the 2023 – 2025 period. It was noted that there was a real risk that inflation could be both high and sustained. The impact of persistently high inflation over the three-year period would cause cumulative cost increases resulting in the expenditure budget for year three outstripping the GDC's income.
- 9.5 The Accounting Officer advised that the GDC was also vulnerable to shorter term, in-year, inflation risks as the ARF was set and collected once a year.
- 9.6 The Accounting Officer confirmed that he was satisfied that the proposed approach to dealing with inflation was in accord with the existing funding policy and would provide appropriate capacity and resilience to deliver the Council's Strategic Objectives.
- 9.7 The Chair of the FPC outlined that the FPC's recommended approach would guard against significant over recovery as well as significant under recovery.
- 9.8 It was noted that there had been a rapid worsening of expectations on inflation and that savings alone would not meet the associated increase in costs.
- 9.9 The Council **approved** the amendments to the section of the Corporate Strategy consultation document and noted that further work would be required on the communications around this.

The Interim Head of Policy and Research left the meeting.

10. Any Other Business

- 10.1 The team were congratulated on the successful launch of the Dental Professionals Hearing Service website.

The meeting was closed at 14:20pm.