

General Dental Council Meeting
Thursday 2 September 2004

This document gives a summary of the decisions taken at the Council's meeting on Thursday 2 September 2004. The next meeting of Council is on Monday 6 December 2004. (All papers are available on our website via the following link: http://www.gdc-uk.org/councilmeetings/2004_september/agenda.html)

Policy for external consultations

Council agreed the following arrangements for handling requests to take part in external consultation documents. The documents should be classified as follows:

Level	Classification	Description	Input
1	High impact	May lead GDC to create a new policy or revise an existing one, or may affect the GDC's ability to discharge its duties and policies	Input from members necessary
2	Relevant	Relevant, but no significant effect upon established GDC policy or operations likely in the short or medium term	Input from members desirable
3	Not relevant	Does not affect GDC duties and policies in any way	Input from members available

Members agreed the following handling proposals:

- a. the Chief Executive (or the person to whom he/she delegates the task) should consider the classification of the consultation;
- b. in the case of a consultation falling within category 1, or a consultation falling within category 2 for which it is considered that member input is required, the chair(s) of the relevant committee(s)/working group(s) and/or the President should be asked to advise on which members should be involved in formulating the response;
- c. the response should be formulated and cleared by the members involved (in some cases, this may mean all members of a committee or working group, and occasionally Council as a whole);
- d. the response should be sent by the Chief Executive (or the person to whom the task is delegated).

The Council also agreed that consultations in categories 1 and 2 above should be published on the GDC website for three months.

Registration of Dental Nurses

The Council approved, in principle, the development of an additional route for dental nurses to gain statutory registration during the transitional period, based on a minimum of two years' experience plus satisfactory proof of competence in the areas covered by the proposed new top-up training programme, or satisfactory completion of the proposed training. They asked the Registration Committee to develop proposals for establishing that competence, for approval by Council.

Dental Technician Registration

Council approved the following revised Council policy on dental technician registration:

- a. During the two-year transitional period, dental technician registration should be open to
 - i. Dental technicians with an approved qualification, and

- ii. dental technicians on the voluntary register held by the Dental Technicians Association, and
 - iii. unqualified applicants who have verifiable evidence that they have been satisfactorily employed as a dental technician for seven years in the last ten (or the part-time equivalent), and who have the ability to manage the manufacture of a range of custom-made dental devices within fixed or removable prosthodontics or orthodontics.
- b. After the end of transition, only qualified dental technicians should be allowed to register;
 - c. after the end of transition, only registered dental technicians, or those under supervision and enrolled on a course leading to registration as a registered dental technician with the GDC, should be directly involved in the manufacture of dental appliances.

It also agreed that further discussions with the parties involved in delivering the necessary training and funding would be undertaken by the Chief Executive and his staff.

Pension Plan Review

Before the meeting, the paper for this item was confidential to members of Council who held a briefing in camera. Council agreed that the maximum contribution level would be up to 25% of salaries. The final salary scheme would continue, but there would need to be significant changes. Council confirmed that their decision would have no effect on benefits accrued, whether in payment now or not yet in payment. All staff would be consulted and offered individual advice before changes were decided and implemented.

Annual report of the Fitness to Practise Policy Committee

Council received the Committee's report:

http://www.gdc-uk.org/councilmeetings/2004_september/item8.doc

Registration Committee annual report to Council

Council received the Committee's report:

http://www.gdc-uk.org/councilmeetings/2004_september/item9.doc

Appointments Committee Annual report

Council received the Committee's report:

http://www.gdc-uk.org/councilmeetings/2004_september/item10.doc

Regulation changes to the International Qualifying Examination

Council endorsed the proposed minor amendments to the IQE Regulations, contained in the annex to this paper.

Nominations to Outside Bodies

Council agreed that Joe Rich would be the GDC representative on the United Kingdom Inter-Professional Group with Richard Graham as his alternate.

Report by Paul Cook of the Joint Committee of Specialist Training in Dentistry Meeting

Members noted the report:

http://www.gdc-uk.org/councilmeetings/2004_september/item13.doc

Regulation changes to the International Qualifying Examination (IQE)

IQE (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2004

1. In these Regulations:

“the IQE regulations” means the regulations made by the General Dental Council under section 16(4) of the Dentists Act 1984 which came into force on 1 January 2001. Other expressions in these Regulations defined in the IQE regulations have the meanings assigned to them in those regulations.

2. These Regulations shall come into force on 1 January 2005.

3. Regulation 3 of the IQE regulations is amended as follows:

Delete “(a) a written examination and an oral examination in anatomy, physiology and biochemistry and in oral anatomy and physiology.

(b) a written examination and an oral examination in human disease (medicine and surgery) including general pathology and microbiology.

(c) an oral examination in clinical dentistry.” and insert

“(a) a written paper and an oral examination in clinically applied dental science and

(b) a written paper and an oral examination in clinically applied human disease.”

Delete “(b) an examination in clinical dentistry, covering all aspects of dentistry and including the examination of an adult and a child patient.” and insert

(b) “an examination in clinical dentistry, covering all aspects of dentistry and including the examination of an adult or a child patient.”

The Common Seal of the General Dental Council was applied hereto in the presence of

Hew Byrne Mathewson
President

Antony John Townsend
Registrar

This day of 2004