

## **The GDC Council – do you have what it takes?**

Are you committed to protecting patients and the public? Have you got experience of being involved in public life? Do you have sound judgement, can you make sense of complex issues and think clearly? Do you have the ability to be fair and see the big picture?

If you can answer ‘yes’ to these questions, the General Dental Council is looking for people like you to join its new Council. The positions are currently being advertised in the trade and national press.

The new-look Council, which will be fully appointed for the first time, will be made up of 12 registrant members and 12 lay members. The GDC hopes a variety of people with the necessary skills will apply.

“These are exciting times to become involved in healthcare regulation, and this is a great opportunity to play a leading role. Don’t let this opportunity pass you by. Log onto our website to find out more,” says GDC President Hew Mathewson.

The Appointments Commission is overseeing the recruitment process for the new Council who will be appointed against the criteria for the role. All Council members will share a common objective – to protect patients. The role profile and person specification for the positions ensure that consideration is given to:

- particular areas of expertise required
- the fact that the GDC regulates dental professionals from each of the four UK countries
- equality and diversity

To apply for a place on the new Council, please see the story on the home page of our website: <http://www.gdc-uk.org/>

The decision to implement a new-look, smaller, fully appointed Council follows the 2007 publication of the White Paper setting out the Government’s plans for healthcare regulation, including how the councils of healthcare regulatory bodies should be made up.

The new Council is a good opportunity for everyone, both dental professionals and members of the public, to get involved in how the UK dental profession is regulated. GDC President Hew Mathewson said:

“I would strongly urge those registrants and members of the public with the relevant skills to apply to serve on the new Council since this is a unique opportunity to shape the future of dental regulation which is only open once every four years.

“Getting as many people as possible involved in the GDC’s work is essential. We want to hear what people think about what we do, what we could do better and what else we should be doing, so that we can make sure we do our job effectively. We have been doing just that in different ways through written consultations, workshops, focus groups and telephone research. So even if the new Council isn’t for you, there are still lots of ways you will be able to get involved.”

The Department of Health has recently extended the current Council’s term of office for a period of up to six months. This extension is a result of a delay in the legislation necessary for the appointment of the new Council.