General Dental Council

GDCUpdate: May 2024

A view from the Chair: Responding to the government's consultation on provisional registration and getting ready to welcome our new Chief Executive and Registrar

Our Chair, Lord Toby Harris, announces that our new Chief Executive and Registrar will be welcomed to the GDC in early June, and that the tendering for suppliers of the Overseas Registration Examination will begin next week. We are reminded that the government's consultation on provisional registration closes soon, and the Chair sets out our plans to ask dental care professionals for their working patterns data when renewal opens in next month.

The deadline to set up a Direct Debit to pay your ARF is 31 May

You can pay the Annual Retention Fee (ARF) all at once or in instalments by Direct Debit, but you will need to set it up before the 31 May deadline for this year's annual renewal.

You can set up a Direct Debit for an annual payment or four equal quarterly instalments through your eGDC account. To pay by instalments, select 'manage payments' and then 'Direct Debit'.

Find out more about paying the ARF by Direct Debit on our website.

Initial inquires pilot extended after early signs of positive impacts

We have announced an extension to our initial inquiries pilot in fitness to practise this week following early signs of a positive impact from the approach. We will be extending the pilot for six months to October 2024 and widening the criteria.

By the end of April, we had opened 127 cases in the initial inquiries pilot and completed an assessment in 74 (58%) cases. Of these, just eight cases (10%) were referred to case examiners for a decision and all remaining cases were closed. The average time taken to complete the assessment stage was 12 weeks, against a performance target of 30 weeks.

Find out more about the changes to the initial inquires pilot.

DHSC consultation to provide for provisional registration closes 16 May

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has presented proposals for legislative amendments to create a new category of provisional registration for dentists who qualify outside the UK. We encourage anyone with an interest in this area of policy to review the proposals and submit your views. There is just over a week left to respond.

The consultation closes on 16 May.

Where to find us at the Dentistry Show 17 and 18 May

We will be at the British Dental Conference and Dentistry Show on Friday 17 and Saturday 18 May at Birmingham's NEC. The team will be on stand P10 in Hall 5, and we look forward to meeting those who plan to attend. We will also be speaking at a Dental Nurses Forum at 1pm on the Friday.

If you're coming to the show, do visit the stand. The team will be pleased to discuss the latest developments for dental professionals, including dental care professional annual renewal.

Our three-year rolling Costed Corporate Plan published

We have set out our plans for the next three years in our Costed Corporate Plan, with a continued focus on ensuring that dental regulation is efficient and effective. The plan includes details of our forecasts for income and expenditure for 2024 and reports the progress made in 2023.

You can find our Costed Corporate Plan 2024 – 2026 on our website.

New research to unlock the potential of fitness to practise data

We have recently published findings from research by the University of Plymouth designed to help us unlock the potential of our fitness to practise data. Researchers used a variety of

research methods, including analyses of case file data collected over a five-year period, to extract broad themes and considerations from the information we record during the process.

The work has been used to underpin changes to our fitness to practise processes for improved timeliness and proportionality, including the initial inquiries pilot, and will help us to progress work to enable meaningful learning from the process. We now plan to undertake a data maturity assessment to inform further improvement priorities and opportunities.

Find the summary and full report in our online research library.

Legislative amendments on prescription only medicines now laid

Legislative amendments to enable suitably qualified registered dental therapists and dental hygienists to administer specific medicines under exemption have been laid in parliament for scrutiny and approval.

Further details can be found on the UK Parliament website.

See you at the Scottish Dental Show on 31 May

We're out-and-about a lot in Scotland. We're especially looking forward to meeting with dental professionals at the Scottish Dental Show in Braehead Arena on 31 May and 1 June. Please drop-by and chat with us at our exhibition stand. This follows our presentation in Stirling at the recent Conference of Scottish LDCs and our seminar at the NHS NES conference.