

ON PAPERS**Registrations Appeal Hearing
CPD Appeal Hearing****20 August 2026**

Name: LI, Xinda
Registration number: 305918
Case number: CAS-215684-G5C5D3

General Dental Council: Represented by Jack Chaffey, ILAS
Registrant: Unrepresented

Outcome: Appeal dismissed

Committee members: John Vellacott (Chair, lay member)
Alan McCrum (Lay member)
Annika Hindocha (Dentist member)

Legal adviser: Mike Bell

Committee Secretary: Sara Page

1. This is an appeal meeting before the Registration Appeals Committee (RAC). The appeal is against the decision of the Registrar of the General Dental Council (GDC) to erase Mr Li from the Register for apparent non-compliance with the statutory Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirements. The hearing is being held in accordance with the terms of the *General Dental Council (Registration Appeals) Rules Order of Council 2006* ('the Registration Appeal Rules'), pursuant to Schedule 2A of the *Dentists Act 1984* (as amended) ('the Act').
2. The hearing was conducted remotely via Microsoft Teams in line with current GDC practice. Neither party was present at today's hearing, following notification from the GDC that the appeal was to be conducted on the papers.

Preliminary matter

Decision to conduct the appeal in the absence of Mr Li and on the papers

3. Neither party was present at today's meeting. The Committee noted that conducting the appeal on the papers is the default position of the GDC unless an appellant requests an oral hearing. Having considered the documents provided, the Committee was satisfied that Mr Li had made no such request.
4. Notification of this appeal was sent to Mr Li by Recorded Delivery and secure email on 18 June 2026 in accordance with Rule 5 of the Registration Appeal Rules.
5. The Committee was satisfied that it was appropriate to consider today's appeal in the absence of either party and on the papers.

Decision and reasons on the appeal

Background

6. The General Dental Council (Continuing Professional Development) (Dentists and Dental Care Professionals) Rules 2017 ('the CPD Rules') set out the CPD requirements placed on dentist registrants as of 1 January 2018, and the steps that the GDC shall take in respect of registrants' compliance and non-compliance with those requirements.
7. The 2017 Rules came into force on 1 January 2018 and took effect in respect of dentists on the same date.
8. In accordance with Rule 1, a 'CPD cycle' means, in respect of a dentist, a period of five years beginning on 1 January following the date the dentist is first registered and each subsequent period of five years. A 'CPD year' means, in respect of a dentist, a period of 12 months beginning on 1 January in any calendar year.
9. Mr Li appealed against the Registrar's decision that his CPD is non-compliant because he failed to complete his annual CPD statement for the period 1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025 by the deadline of 20 March 2026.

Summary

10. The GDC's case in support of its decision was summarised as follows:

11. Mr Li first registered with the General Dental Council (“the Council”) as a dentist on 18 February 2023. Therefore, in accordance with Rule 1 as set out above, Mr Li’s current CPD cycle began on 1 January 2024 and will end on 31 December 2028.
12. On 30 October 2025, the GDC sent an email reminder to Mr Li’s registered email address. This reminder notified Mr Li that his 2025 CPD cycle year was coming to an end and reminded him that he was required to submit his CPD statement, detailing how many CPD hours he had completed during that year, by 28 January 2026. The email also reminded Mr Li of the need to complete a minimum of ten hours of CPD during each period of two consecutive years, including any two-year period spanning over more than one CPD cycle. Mr Li was warned that if he failed to submit his CPD statement by this date his registration may be put at risk.
13. On 10 November 2025, the GDC sent Mr Li an Annual Renewal Notice letter by post to his registered address. The Annual Renewal Notice is designed to remind registrants that their registration with the GDC is due for renewal, of the need to pay their annual retention fee and make their indemnity declaration and of the need to submit their CPD statement. Mr Li was also reminded in this notice that he was required to submit his CPD statement by 28 January 2026. This letter also reminded Mr Li of the need to complete a minimum of ten hours of CPD during each period of two consecutive years.
14. Between 26 November 2025 and 28 January 2026, the GDC sent numerous reminders via various methods of communication to Mr Li regarding his CPD requirements.

Rule 7 notice

15. On 20 February 2026, the GDC sent Mr Li a notice under Rule 7 of the 2017 Rules to his registered address by recorded delivery. The notice stated that Mr Li had failed to submit a CPD statement for the year 1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025 by the deadline provided of 28 January 2026. The notice required Mr Li to submit his CPD statement by the deadline of 20 March 2026 either online or by completing and returning the enclosed statement. It also informed him that a CPD statement included submitting the CPD hours he had completed and also making his declarations and that if any of this information was missing his statement would not be deemed complete. The notice reminded Mr Li that if the GDC did not receive his statement by 20 March 2026, he may be at risk of being removed from the dentists register.
16. Mr Li did not submit his annual statement by 20 March 2026.

Rule 8 notice

17. On 1 April 2026, the Council sent a Rule 8 Notice to Mr Li’s registered address by recorded delivery. This notice confirmed that Mr Li had failed to complete an annual CPD statement for the period 1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025 by the deadline of 20 March 2026 and that as a result, the Registrar had made the decision to remove his name from the dentists register for non-compliance with the 2017 Rules. Mr Li was notified that unless an appeal was submitted, the Registrar’s decision would take effect on 1 May 2026.

Notice of Appeal (NOA)

18. On 29 April 2026, the GDC received an email from Mr Li attaching an NOA in which he confirmed that he wished to appeal the decision to remove him from the register. Mr Li also attached CPD evidence, proof of payment of his Annual Retention Fee (ARF) and a screenshot of his email inbox to his email.

19. On 30 April 2026, Mr Li's NOA was reviewed by the Council's Operations Officer. Mr Li was deemed to be non-compliant with his CPD requirements for the following reasons:
- *Mr Xinda Li has failed to provide sufficient evidence that demonstrates compliance with the CPD requirement of completing ten hours of verifiable CPD over 2 consecutive years.*
 - *1 x Agilio certificate dated 28 April 2026, and 21 x Agilio certificate dated 29 April 2026 are not within the requested assessment period and therefore not applicable.*
20. This assessment found that Mr Li had demonstrated that he had completed zero hours of verifiable CPD for the period 1 January 2024 – 31 December 2025. Mr Li was therefore required to provide ten hours of CPD evidence for this period.

Submissions

21. In its written submissions, the GDC submitted that Mr Li is non-compliant with his CPD requirements because he has failed to demonstrate that he has completed the minimum requirement to undertake ten hours of verifiable CPD during the period 1 January 2024 – 31 December 2025.
22. The GDC noted that Mr Li has provided CPD documentation with his NOA for CPD completed outside of the period 1 January 2024 – 31 December 2025. The GDC acknowledged the further CPD undertaken. However, the CPD undertaken outside of the relevant period cannot be counted. Only CPD undertaken between 1 January 2024 – 31 December 2025 can be considered by the Registrar when assessing compliance under Rule 2(5) of the 2017 Rules which requires a minimum of 10 hours of CPD to be undertaken in each two-year period.
23. The GDC respectfully submitted that Mr Li has been registered since 2023 and has been sent regular reminders in relation to his CPD requirements since his registration with the GDC. In addition, irrespective of the GDC's reminders, all registrants should be aware of the requirements for continued registration, which includes ongoing compliance with the CPD requirements annually and during each period of two years. The purpose of the CPD requirements is to ensure that the GDC's registrants are at all times appropriately educated and trained to provide safe care to the public, in line with the GDC's over-arching objective.
24. Further, the GDC submitted that it is a registrant's responsibility to inform their regulator of any change of contact details at the first available opportunity.
25. The GDC also noted that the shortfall in Mr Li's required CPD hours for the relevant two-year period is ten hours, which is a significant shortfall especially given the importance of CPD in upholding patient safety and professional standards.
26. The GDC is therefore of the view that Mr Li had completed zero verifiable CPD hours between 1 January 2024 – 31 December 2025 and has a shortfall of ten hours. Therefore, Mr Li failed to meet the requirement that dentists complete a minimum of ten verifiable CPD hours in each two-year period as per Rule 2(5) of the 2017 Rules.
27. In Mr Li's NOA, he apologised for failing to submit his annual CPD statement within the required timeframe and said that he fully understood the importance of complying with the GDC's CPD requirements and regretted not completing this on time. He stated that he was

completely unaware of this requirement and that he had not received emails from the GDC at the email address linked to the GDC since 2025. He attached a screenshot of his email inbox as proof.

28. Mr Li stated that he had begun undertaking CPD as soon as he received the GDC's letter and attached a copy of his CPD evidence. He had also remained up to date with payment of his ARF with his last payment made on 25 December 2025. Mr Li emphasised this situation was a communication error rather than a failure to engage with his professional responsibilities. Notwithstanding this, he accepted responsibility for ensuring his CPD had been submitted and his contact details and communications from the GDC was monitored.
29. Mr Li attached all of his relevant CPD evidence and confirmation of payment of his ARF – the payment of the ARF was in his view, proof that his failure to submit his CPD was a genuine oversight rather than an intentional failure. He also requested that the Committee reconsider the GDC decision. He was fully committed to compliance with the GDC's requirements and would ensure this situation did not arise again.

Committee's decision and reasons on the appeal

30. The Committee had regard to the documentary evidence provided today and took account of the written submissions made on behalf of the GDC and those made by in Mr Li's NOA. It heard and accepted the advice of the Legal Adviser.
31. The Committee noted that Mr Li has completed zero hours of verifiable CPD hours for the relevant period, leaving a shortfall of ten hours. Mr Li acknowledged that he did not provide his annual CPD statement by the deadline and had not completed the hours required. Whilst the Committee noted Mr Li's explanation regarding not having received the GDC's reminders, it is the responsibility of all registrants to keep their contact details up to date and to comply with the enhanced CPD requirements.
32. Accordingly, the appeal is dismissed. The Committee wished to remind Mr Li that it is open to him to apply for the restoration of his name to the Register upon completion of the required number of CPD hours.
33. This will be confirmed to Mr Li in writing.
34. That concludes this determination.