

## PUBLIC HEARING

### Registration Appeals Committee

12 December 2025

**Name:** KAUR, Gurdeep

**Registration number:** 254328

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**General Dental Council:** James Halliday of Counsel  
Instructed by Jack Chaffey of IHLAS

**Registrant:** Present  
Unrepresented

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**Outcome:** Appeal dismissed

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**Committee members:** Debbie Jones (DCP) (Chair)  
Paul Hepworth (Lay)  
Sophie Wilson (Dentist)

**Professional Adviser:** John Darby

**Legal adviser:** Kenneth Hamer

**Committee Secretary:** Paul Carson

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Mrs Kaur,

1. This is an appeal against the registrar's decision not to grant you registration on the DCP register under the titles of Dental Hygienist and/or Dental Therapist. The issue on appeal is whether you demonstrate the requisite knowledge and skill to practise as a member of the profession under either or both titles in accordance with the requirements of section 36C(4)(b) of the Dentists Act 1984 (the "Act").

*Background*

2. You graduated in December 2009 from the Farid University of Health Sciences, India. with the degree of Bachelor of Dental Surgery, followed by a clinical internship year.
3. From January to December 2011 you worked as a General Dental Practitioner in India.
4. In 2012 you moved to the United Kingdom. From 2013 to 2014 you trained as a Dental Nurse and became registered with the General Dental Council (GDC) under that title in October 2014. You continue to work as a Dental Nurse in the UK and are preparing for the Overseas Registration Examination (ORE) in order to become registered with the GDC as a Dentist.
5. You passed Part 1 of the ORE (theory) in 2023 and are currently studying for Part 2 (practical). You are enrolled on an ORE preparation course, part of which involves practising on a mannequin at home alone at weekends (you work full-time as a Dental Nurse during the week) and sending photographs of your work for assessment and feedback by your tutor. You had also periodically returned to India to practise as a Dentist in order to refresh your skills. Your Professional Clinical Referee certifies the following periods of clinical practice: 15/10/2015 -13/11/2015,16/12/2016 - 23/01/2017, 10/08/2017-19/08/2017, 01/02/2020-28/02/2020, 02/02/2023-21/02/2023, 14/08/2024-02/09/2024 and 04/12/2024-23/12/2024.
6. On 6 March 2023, you submitted applications to the GDC for registration under the titles of Dental Hygienist and Dental Therapist pending completion of the ORE, relying on your Bachelor of Dental Surgery degree and the provisions of section 36C of the Act (as in force at the time), which require you to satisfy the registrar of a number of matters, including, so far as is relevant to this appeal, "Matter C".
7. Section 36C(4) provides that:

*"Matter C is that the person—*

  - (a) holds a qualification or qualifications granted by an institution or institutions outside the United Kingdom relevant to the profession complementary to dentistry, or class of members of such a profession, to which the title applies (in this section referred to as "relevant qualifications"); and*
  - (b) has satisfied the Council that he has the requisite knowledge and skill to practise as a member of the profession or class to which the title applies."*
8. It is not in dispute that your Bachelor of Dental Surgery degree is a "relevant qualification" for the purposes of section 36C(4)(a) of the Act. The issue for the Committee to decide is whether you demonstrate that you have the requisite

knowledge and skill to practise under the titles of Dental Hygienist and/or Dental Therapist in accordance with section 36C(4)(b). When determining whether an applicant has the requisite knowledge and skill, section 36C(5)(a) of the Act requires the Council to take into account all the applicant's relevant qualifications, and all relevant knowledge or experience, wherever acquired.

9. Your applications for registration were considered on paper by panels convened by the registrar to assess your qualification, training and experience against the Learning Outcomes which are required for Dental Hygienists and Dental Therapists. The panels met on 21 November 2024 and 13 March 2025 with the ultimate outcome of this assessment process being a decision that your applications do not demonstrate that a number of the Learning Outcomes had been covered as part of your training or professional experience.
10. Accordingly, the General Dental Council (GDC) wrote to you on 19 June 2025 refusing your applications for registration as a Dental Hygienist and a Dental Therapist. In respect of each of the outstanding Learning Outcomes, the letter explained that *'to meet this outcome, you were requested to provide a recent clinical professional reference to demonstrate this learning outcome. The evidence of clinical experience you have provided is insufficient to satisfy the Registrar that you have the requisite knowledge and skill to practise using the title that you have applied for'*.
11. On 25 March 2025 you lodged your appeal against this decision. In support of your appeal you provided further evidence, including your updated Continuing Professional Development (CPD) record and professional references.

#### The appeal hearing 12 December 2025

12. The Committee met today over Microsoft Teams to consider your appeal. The Committee had regard to all the documentary evidence you provided in support of your appeal and to the oral evidence which you gave today.
13. In oral evidence, you answered comprehensive questions relating to your academic training and clinical experience. You were also asked to discuss your understanding of the GDC's standards and the clinical role of a Dental Hygienist and a Dental Therapist under the GDC's Scope of Practice.
14. The Committee had regard to the submissions made on behalf of the registrar by Mr Halliday and to the submissions which you made during the course of your oral evidence.
15. Mr Halliday submitted that your lack of any recent clinical experience of carrying out the work of a Dental Hygienist or Dental Therapist means that you are unable to demonstrate the requisite knowledge and skill for registration under either or both titles. He submitted that, whilst for practical reasons you have understandably been unable to gain further clinical experience, the result is that your appeal falls to be dismissed.
16. You submitted that you demonstrate the requisite knowledge and skill for registration as a Dental Hygienist and a Dental Therapist, referring in particular to your clinical knowledge and experience as a Dentist, which encompasses the work of a Dental Hygienist and Dental Therapist; your continued training; and your more recent day-to-

day clinical experience of providing chairside assistance in relation to procedures which are carried out by Dental Hygienists and Dental Therapists.

*Decision*

17. The Committee accepted the advice of the Professional Adviser.
18. The Committee accepted the advice of the Legal Adviser.
19. The Committee carefully examined the outstanding Learning Outcomes for the titles of Dental Hygienist and Dental Therapist against all the available evidence.
20. The Committee is not bound by the assessment of the registrar's panels and considered your applications for the registration on the basis of all the information and evidence now available on appeal.
21. Having comprehensively examined the oral and documentary evidence, the Committee was not satisfied that you demonstrate each of the outstanding Learning Outcomes. This is because you lack any recent relevant clinical experience. You only have approximately 12 months of continuous clinical practice in 2011 following the completion of your clinical internship. Since then, you only have a total of 23 weeks experience of intermittent clinical practice, with no clinical experience at all over the past 12 months. Your work as a Dental Nurse in the UK provides you with working experience of GDC Standards and of the clinical environment but your chairside assistance is not sufficient for the purposes of demonstrating the requisite clinical experience in carrying out the role of a Dental Hygienist or a Dental Therapist. When your clinical experience is viewed as a whole, you have only relatively limited experience of working as a Dentist.
22. For practical reasons you have understandably been unable to return to India to continue gaining more clinical experience as a Dentist. However, the fact remains that you are unable to demonstrate relevant recent clinical experience.
23. The Committee noted that you demonstrate a high level of knowledge of dentistry and your CPD record and your professional references shows a strong commitment to learning and professional development. You were able to provide detailed and comprehensive answers to the questions which were put to you today, showing a high level of knowledge of the GDC's Standards and Scope of Practice. You are a hard working and determined individual. However, your appeal must unfortunately fail as you do not also demonstrate relevant recent clinical experience. This means that the Committee was not satisfied by any objective measure that you possess the clinical skill and dexterity to safely carry out the role of a Dental Hygienist or Dental Therapist.
24. Accordingly, your appeal is dismissed. The Committee wishes you success in passing Part 2 of the ORE.
25. That concludes this determination.