

ON PAPERS**Interim Order Committee
Review Hearing****18 April 2024****Name:** MAHMOOD, Ansar**Registration number:** 230396**Case number:** CAS-201389

General Dental Council: Rosie Geddes, IHLPS**Registrant:** Represented by Weightmans solicitors

Outcome: Interim suspension confirmed**Duration:** Remainder of the High Court extension

Committee members: Andrea Hammond (Chair and DCP member)
Hall Graham (Dentist member)
Jim Hurden (Lay member)**Legal adviser:** Valerie Paterson**Committee Secretary:** Jamie Barge

The role of the Interim Orders Committee (IOC) is to undertake a risk assessment based on the information before it. Its role is to assess the nature and substance of any risk to the public in all the circumstances of the case and to consider whether it is necessary for the protection of the public, is otherwise in the public interest, or is in the registrant's own interests to impose an interim order on their registration. It is not the role of the IOC to make findings of fact in relation to any charge. That is the role of a differently constituted committee at a later stage in the process.

1. This is a review hearing of the IOC. The hearing is being held on the papers in the absence of both parties. The hearing is being conducted remotely via Microsoft Teams in line with the GDC's current practice.

Decision on service of notice of hearing

2. Neither party was present at today's hearing following a request for this matter to be heard on the papers. The Committee first considered whether notice of this hearing had been served on Mr Mahmood in accordance with Rules 35 and 65 of the General Dental Council (Fitness to Practise) Rules Order of Council 2006 (the Rules).
3. The Committee has received a bundle of documents which contains a copy of the notice of today's review hearing dated 26 March 2024. The notice was sent to Mr Mahmood's registered address using the Royal Mail's Special Delivery postal service. Copies of the notice were also sent to Mr Mahmood by first class post and email, as well as to his legal representatives, namely Weightmans solicitors. The Committee was satisfied that the notice contained proper notification of today's hearing, including its date and time, and explained the remote nature of the hearing. The notice also stated that the Committee has the power to proceed with the hearing in Mr Mahmood's absence. The Committee also had sight of the extract from the Royal Mail Track and Trace service which shows that an attempt was made to deliver the notice but was returned back to sender on 30 March 2024.
4. Accordingly, the Committee concluded that service of the notice has been effected in accordance with the Rules.

Decision on proceeding with the hearing on the papers in the absence of parties

5. The Committee next considered whether to proceed in the absence of Mr Mahmood. The Committee noted that in their email of 4 April 2024, Mr Mahmood's legal representatives, namely Weightmans solicitors, stated that Mr Mahmood is content for the hearing to proceed in his absence on the papers. The Committee also noted that the GDC has invited the Committee to proceed in such a manner. The Committee was satisfied that in the circumstances it was appropriate to review the interim order on the basis of the papers before it and in the absence of both parties.

Background to review

6. This is the fourth review of this interim order of suspension which was first imposed on Mr Mahmood on 16 September 2022 for a period of 18 months. The order was considered to be necessary to protect the public and was otherwise in the public interest. The Committee which imposed the order considered concerns relating to Mr Mahmood's fitness to practise. It was specifically alleged that Mr Mahmood had defrauded his practice, had harassed a patient who had posted a negative review on social media, had behaved inappropriately and/or dishonestly towards his practice manager in relation to the patient's complaint, and had dishonestly colluded with a member of staff in relation to them undertaking continuing professional development (CPD) and falsifying documents in relation to records and another GDC investigation into his conduct.
7. The interim order of suspension was reviewed and continued by the IOC on 24 February 2023, 31 July 2023 and 8 January 2024.

8. The matter was extended by the High Court on 6 February 2024 for a further period of 12 months. The order will expire on 15 March 2025.

Decision on review

9. The Committee has today comprehensively reviewed the order. In so doing, it took account of the information contained in the bundles. The Committee had regard to the GDC's *Guidance for the Interim Orders Committee* (December 2023) and accepted the advice of the Legal Adviser. The Committee bore in mind its overarching objectives to protect, promote and maintain the health, safety and well-being of the public; to promote and maintain public confidence in the dental and dental care professions; and to promote and maintain proper professional standards and conduct for members of the dental and dental care professions.
10. The Committee noted that the GDC submits that the interim order of suspension should continue. It also notes that Mr Mahmood's legal representatives have made no objection to the continuation of the current order in their letter dated 4 April 2024. The Committee noted that the Case Examiners have considered the concerns underlying the interim order and determined to refer the majority of the particulars to a Professional Conduct Committee (PCC). The Committee also noted there has not been a significant material change of circumstances which might undermine the ongoing requirement for an interim order since the order was imposed.
11. The Committee was satisfied that the order remains necessary to protect the public and is otherwise in the public interest, and that the public and the public interest would be insufficiently protected if no order were in place given the wide-ranging and serious nature of the concerns that have been raised. The Committee considers that conditions cannot adequately meet the risks that arise, and that the interim order should continue to be one of suspension.

Next review

12. Unless there has been a material change of circumstances, the Committee will review the interim order on the papers at an administrative hearing within the next six months. The Committee will be invited by the GDC to confirm the order and Mr Mahmood will be asked whether there are any written submissions to be put before the Committee on his behalf. Mr Mahmood will then be notified of the outcome in writing following the decision of the Committee.
13. Alternatively, Mr Mahmood is entitled to have the interim order reviewed at an oral hearing. This means that he will be able to attend and make representations, send a representative on his behalf or submit written representations about whether the order continues to be necessary. Mr Mahmood must inform the GDC if he would like the interim order to be reviewed at a hearing.
14. Even if Mr Mahmood does not request a hearing, where there has been a material change of circumstances that might mean that the order should be revoked, varied or replaced, the Committee will review the order at a hearing to which he and any representative will be invited to attend.
15. That concludes this determination.