

## ON PAPERS

### Registrations Appeal Hearing CPD Appeal Hearing

28 March 2025

**Name:** TILLET, Michaela

**Registration number:** 231309

**Case number:** CAS-209389-G3Y9G3

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**General Dental Council:** Instructed by Zara Gull, ILAS

**Registrant:** Unrepresented

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**Outcome:** Appeal dismissed

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**Committee members:** Zareen Elleby (Chair, Dental Care Professional member)  
Catherine Pease (Lay member)  
Juliette Brouard (Dentist member)

**Legal adviser:** Judith Walker

**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 Miss Tillett 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 4A 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 Miss Tillett and on the papers**

3. Neither party was present at today's meeting. Having heard and accepted the advice of the Legal Adviser, 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 Miss Tillett had made no such request.
4. Notification of this appeal was sent to Miss Tillett by Recorded Delivery and secure email on 20 February 2025 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 DCP registrants as of 1 August 2018, and the steps that the GDC shall take in respect of registrants' compliance and non-compliance with those requirements.
7. The CPD Rules came into force on the 1 January 2018 and took effect in respect of dental care professionals on 1 August 2018.
8. In accordance with Rule 1, a 'CPD cycle' means, in respect of a dental care professional, a period of five years beginning on 1 August following the date the dental care professional is first registered and each subsequent period of five years. A 'CPD year' means, in respect of a dental care professional, a period of 12 months beginning on 1 August in any calendar year.
9. Miss Tillett appealed against the Registrar's decision that her CPD is non-compliant because she failed to provide a compliant CPD record demonstrating that she had met the minimum requirement for the period 1 August 2022 – 31 July 2024.

## Summary

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

Miss Tillett first registered with the General Dental Council ("the Council") as a dental care professional, with the title Dental Nurse, on 10 August 2012. Therefore, in accordance with Rule 1, Miss Tillett's current CPD cycle began on 1 August 2023 and will end on 31 July 2028.

On 22 May 2024, the Council sent an email reminder to Miss Tillett's registered email address. This reminder notified Miss Tillett that her CPD year was coming to an end and reminded her that she was required to submit her CPD statement, detailing how many CPD hours she had completed during that year, by 28 August 2024. Miss Tillett was advised that if she did not submit a compliant statement before the deadline, her registration may be put at risk.

On 11 June 2024, the Council also sent Miss Tillett an Annual Renewal Notice letter by post to her registered address. The Annual Renewal Notice is designed to remind registrants that their registration with the Council is due for renewal, of the need to pay their annual retention fee and make their indemnity declaration and of the need to make their CPD statement. Miss Tillett was also reminded in this notice that she was required to submit her CPD statement by 28 August 2024. It was stated that Miss Tillett would need to have completed at least ten hours of CPD over the last two years.

Between 12 June and 5 August 2024, the Council sent a number of reminders to Miss Tillett regarding her CPD requirements.

### Rule 6 notice

On 25 September 2024, the Council sent a notice under Rule 6 to Miss Tillett by recorded delivery to her registered address. The notice stated that, although Miss Tillett had submitted a CPD statement to the Council, she had not declared enough hours to meet the requirement to complete a minimum of ten hours of CPD over two consecutive years. It was noted that she had submitted an annual CPD statement of zero verifiable hours for the 2022-2023 CPD year and an annual CPD statement of zero verifiable hours for the 2023-2024 CPD year. The notice stated that if Miss Tillett wished to retain her registration, she should submit her CPD record to the Registrar by 23 October 2024 in order to demonstrate that she had met the requirement. Miss Tillett was informed that if the Council did not receive a response to the notice or if her response was unsatisfactory, she may be erased from the dental care professionals register.

On 14 October 2024, the Council received a telephone call from the Registrant. The file note indicates that Miss Tillett confirmed her identity and stated she had not completed her CPD hours was provided advice on the restoration process but no further detail of the call is given

### Rule 8 notice

On 5 November 2024, the Council sent a Rule 8 notice to Miss Tillett confirming that Miss Tillett had failed to provide a compliant CPD record demonstrating that she had met the minimum requirement for the period 1 August 2022 to 31 July 2024 and that as a result, the Registrar had made the decision to remove her name

from the dental care professionals register for non-compliance with the Rules. The notice also indicated that the Council had not received any evidence of exceptional personal circumstances which may have prevented Miss Tillett from completing her CPD record. Miss Tillett was notified that unless an appeal was submitted, the Registrar's decision would take effect on 5 December 2024.

#### Notice of Appeal

On 2 December 2024, the Council received a Notice of Appeal (NOA) via email from Miss Tillett which confirmed that she wished to appeal against the decision to remove her from the dental care professionals register.

#### CPD assessment

On 4 December 2024, Miss Tillett's CPD evidence was assessed by an Operations Officer. Miss Tillett was deemed to be non-compliant with her CPD requirements on the basis that she had zero verifiable CPD hours for the period 1 August 2022 to 31 July 2024. Miss Tillett is outstanding ten verifiable CPD hours, an activity log and a Personal Development Plan. It was confirmed that, as of 4 December 2024, Miss Tillett had completed zero verifiable CPD hours between 1 August 2022 to 31 July 2024.

### **Submissions**

11. In its written submissions, the GDC submitted that Miss Tillett is non-compliant with the CPD requirements because she has failed to provide a CPD record demonstrating that she has completed the minimum requirement for the period 1 August 2022 to 31 July 2024, in accordance with Rule 2.
12. It was further submitted by the Registrar that Miss Tillett was reminded on numerous occasions of the need to complete her CPD hours and of the requirement to complete ten verifiable CPD hours in each two-year period. It was confirmed that, as of 4 December 2024, Miss Tillett had completed zero verifiable CPD hours between 1 August 2022 and 31 July 2024, which clearly breaches the requirement that dental care professionals submit evidence that they have completed a minimum of ten verifiable CPD hours in each two-year period.
13. It was the Registrar's position that all registrants ought to be aware of the requirements for continued registration which includes ongoing compliance with the CPD requirements. The purpose of the CPD requirement is to ensure that GDC registrants are, at all times, appropriately educated and trained to provide safe care to the public. The Registrar submitted that compliance with CPD is mandatory for all dental professionals and is a requirement for their continued registration.
14. In Miss Tillett's NOA, she shared her desire to continue her career as a dental nurse. She explained that after returning to the profession in 2020, following the grounding of her long-haul cabin crew position, she completed the restoration process and fulfilled all required CPD. Although she resumed her cabin crew role, she continued to work part-time as a dental nurse and kept her Annual Retention Fee payments up to date. However, she stated that she has not practised as a dental nurse for the past 18 months, leading to a lapse in her CPD.
15. Miss Tillett submitted that she only needed to complete the required hours within each cycle and was unaware that the last year of one cycle and the first of the next are considered consecutive for CPD purposes. Miss Tillett also explained that she called the Council in September to inquire about urgently catching up on her CPD but was informed that there was no option available and

that she would be removed from the register. She has paid her fees for 2024 to 2025 in full but was told that a refund is not possible. She concluded by expressing her eagerness to continue her work as a dental nurse and hopes the Council will consider her appeal favourably.

### **Committee's decision**

16. 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 Miss Tillett in her NOA. It heard and accepted the advice of the Legal Adviser.
17. The Committee accepted that Miss Tillett had completed zero verifiable CPD hours between 1 August 2022 to 31 July 2024 and referred to the information provided by Miss Tillett in her NOA.
18. Having carefully considered the GDC document, '*Guidance on the Registrar's Discretion to Erase for CPD Non-Compliance (February 2024)*', the Committee considered that Miss Tillett has not made reference to any circumstances that would be considered exceptional thereby preventing her from having met her CPD requirements.
19. Accordingly, the appeal is dismissed. The Committee wished to remind Miss Tillett that it is open to her to apply for the restoration of her name to the Register upon completion of the required number of CPD hours.
20. This will be confirmed to Miss Tillett in writing.
21. That concludes this determination.