

PUBLIC HEARING
Registration Appeals Committee

18 May 2026

Name: AMJAD, Muneeb

Contact Reference: 11458869

General Dental Council: Andrew Molloy of Counsel
Instructed by Ela Rexhaj of IHLAS

Registrant: Present and unrepresented

Outcome: Appeal Dismissed

Committee members: Helen Wagner (Chair, Lay member)
Rachel McCoubrey (Dental Care Professional member)
Gill Jones (Dentist member)

Legal Adviser: Lucia Whittle-Martin

Committee Secretary: Sarah Crewe

Mr Amjab,

1. This Registration Appeals Committee was convened to consider your appeal against the decision of the Registrar of the General Dental Council (GDC) that you are not currently eligible for registration as a Dentist. You attended the hearing, and you represented yourself. Mr Andrew Molloy, Counsel, appeared on behalf of the GDC. The hearing was held remotely on Microsoft Teams.

Legal Framework

The Dentists Act 1984 (as amended) (“the Act”)

2. section 15(3) of the Act details that the following persons shall not be entitled to be registered:

(3) A person shall not be entitled to be registered in the dentists register [...] unless he satisfies the registrar as to the following matters, namely—

- (a) his identity;*
- (b) that he is of good character; [...]*
- (ba) that he has the necessary knowledge of English; and*
- (c) that he is in good health, both physically and mentally.*

3. The only matter under consideration in this appeal is whether you can be considered “of good character” under Section 15(3)(b) of the Act.

Background

4. You submitted an application to join the ORE candidate list which was received by the Council on 05 August 2024.
5. On 05 August 2024, the Council wrote to you via email and confirmed receipt of your ORE application.
6. On 03 September 2024, the Council wrote to your clinical referee via email to verify the information provided in your application form. On 05 September 2024, a response to the Council’s email was received confirming that he personally knew you, had overseen you administering dental treatment and had personally signed your application form.
7. On 05 September 2024, the Council wrote to you and informed you that your application had been successfully processed and that your name had been added to the candidate list for part 1 of the ORE. The email also contained information regarding exam booking, along with other practical information. On the same day, the Council wrote to you again and confirmed that the documents submitted alongside your application would be returned to you. The Council confirmed that it had made the relevant copies of the information it required.
8. On 25 February 2025, the Council wrote to you via email and confirmed that you had made a booking for the ORE part 1 examination which was to be held between 22 and 25 April 2025. The correspondence also confirmed that a payment for the examination had been received by the Council along with joining information.
9. On 07 April 2025, the Council wrote to you via email and reminded you of your booked ORE part 1 examination.
10. On 08 April 2025, you responded to the Council and queried whether your exam date could be moved to 24-25 April 2025 due to delays with your visa. On the same day, the Council

responded to you and informed you that the exam provider is responsible for allocating dates. The Council linked the exam providers contact details within the correspondence.

Application to join DCP register

11. On 14 February 2025, you submitted a webform to the Council which stated, *“i wanna [sic] apply as a DCP as I have relevant overseas Dcp qualification. Please tell me what are the next steps as I have submitted my form.”*
12. On 17 February 2025, the Council wrote to you again via email and acknowledged your request to join the DCP register. Within the correspondence, the Council attached an application pack for you to review and complete.
13. On 17 February 2025, the Council wrote to you via email and asked you to elaborate on your query. The Council acknowledged that only an ORE application had been received from you. The Council queried whether you had sent your DCP application via post to one of the Council's offices.
14. On 18 February 2025, you responded to the Council's email and asked whether you could make a dual application. You stated that you had both DCP and BDS degrees from your university and wanted to know if you could apply for the DCP route whilst being on the ORE candidate list.
15. On 01 March 2025, you wrote to the Council via email and queried whether you could simultaneously apply for a DCP registration whilst being on the ORE candidate list. You queried whether his ORE application would be affected and “get cancelled” if you were to submit a DCP application.
16. On 03 March 2025, the Council responded to your email and explained that as long as you held the relevant title, you could apply for the DCP title as well as pursue the dentist title through the ORE route. The Council confirmed that two applications at one time are allowed. On the same day, you responded to the Council's email, expressing thanks for the response.
17. On 11 March 2025, you wrote to the Council and asked if the learning outcomes are met by your syllabus and curriculum, and whether you are required to submit CPD certificates alongside your DCP application. You stated that you don't have any CPD certificates but that your training and curriculum is enough to demonstrate the learning outcomes.
18. On the same day, the Council responded to your query and stated that CPD certificates and self-reflections are not mandatory but can help support an application. Within this correspondence, the Council attached a list of common documents that have been requested by previous DCP panels. The Council also attached guidance on how to complete the DCP application form and issues that often lead to refusal.
19. On 18 March 2025, you wrote to the Council and asked that in the case where CPD is required after you submit your CPD application, whether these could be submitted electronically or if they should be sent in hard copy.
20. On 20 March 2025, the Council responded to your query and stated that you should submit as much evidence as possible to prove that you meet the standard required in the Assessment process. The Council clarified that if the Assessment panel decides that more evidence is required, it can be sent via email.
21. On 22 April 2025, the Council received an application for the DCP register from you. You submitted your DCP application with supporting documentation, including:

- Copy of official 2023 Diploma certificate titled “BSc. Dental Therapy and Hygiene” from National University of Medical Sciences, Islamabad, Pakistan;
 - Copy of a transcript for “BSc Dental Therapy and Hygiene” from National University of Medical Sciences, Islamabad, Pakistan; and
 - Copy of English language letter from Army Medical College confirming you attained a degree of “BSc Dental Therapy and Hygiene”.
22. On 30 April 2025, the Council wrote to you via email and requested that you send the original copies of your diploma, transcripts of modules studied and marks award to the Council’s Birmingham office. The Council stated that to ensure that your application is dealt with in a timely manner, that you should provide the requested documentation by 23 May 2025.
23. On 30 April 2025, the Council wrote to your clinical referee to certify that the documentation submitted by you consisted of legitimate copies of documents issued by the National University of Medical Sciences Islamabad.
24. On 30 April 2025, you responded to the Council and stated that you would send the documentation in due time. You queried whether the Council required further documents. On the same day, the Council responded to you and explained that when the Council has documentation requested, then details on the next steps will be provided.
25. On 30 April 2025, you responded to the Council’s email and raised the following queries:
- Whether the original transcript of modules studied and marks award were required?
 - As you had previously submitted the notary attested copies of these documents, what are the specific reason(s) for the request of the original documentation now?
 - If the original documentation is required, do you need to get these attested from a notary as well?
 - If you send the original documentation to the Council, what is the procedure to get them back?
 - On 01 May 2025, the Council responded to your questions and stated that the original degree and transcripts were required. The Council explained that the reason for the request was to satisfy the internal audit and that the original documents do not need to be attested. The Council detailed that the documentation will be returned to you once it had been reviewed.
26. On 15 June 2025, you wrote to the Council via email and explained that you would be withdrawing your DCP application. You stated that you couldn’t co-operate with the application due to a “war-like” situation in Pakistan, and that your focus was on your licensing exam (which is understood to be the ORE). You stated that you had booked the ORE part 1 in April but were unable to obtain your visa to travel to the UK which resulted in the loss of your exam fees. You detailed that this caused stress for you and your family, both financially and emotionally. Within this correspondence, you requested the application fee for your DCP application to be refunded.
27. On 27 June 2025, the Council responded to you and passed on well wishes and that it would arrange the return of the DCP application and supporting documents. The Council requested the details for a return address and your bank details for the refund to be processed. On the same day, you responded with an address for your documents and bank details for the refund.
28. The Council wrote to you and enclosed a copy of your application and supporting documentation. The letter advised that a full refund of the DCP Assessment fee was requested and that this could take up to 28 working days for this to be paid.

Suspected dishonest qualification documents

29. On 15 July 2025, the Council's Registration team responsible for the ORE administration wrote to you via email. This email stated that it had come to their attention that you had recently applied for registration under a DCP title, and contained within that application it was suspected that the degree certificate provided was not genuine. It was noted that the DCP application was now withdrawn. The email detailed that the degree contained in the DCP application appeared to be an altered version of the Bachelor in Dental Surgery certificate that you provided in support of your ORE application in August 2024.
30. The Council requested that if you had an explanation for this finding, that you should contact the Council as soon as possible. The Council explained that in the meantime, the Council will remove you from the candidate list for the ORE exam until a final decision is made on the matter.
31. On 15 July 2025, you responded to the Council [PRIVATE]. You explained that the April booking, along with airplane tickets and the DCP application had cost around £2000. You asked that the Council do not remove your name from the ORE candidate list [PRIVATE].
32. On the same day, the Council responded to your email and stated that it would be seeking advice on the matter.
33. On 15 July 2025, you sent a subsequent email to the Council. You stated that it was a mistake from your side to send those documents and that you had been told that the BDS was equivalent to BSc Dental Therapy in Pakistan that is recognised in the UK, so you 'changed the title and got it attested'. You stated this was a big mistake and that you admitted to it and were apologetic for it. You explained that your BDS documents are original and that you are a dentist in your country which can be confirmed from your university.
34. You explained that your visa issues meant you were not able to attend your April booking for the ORE part 1 and this mentally stressed you and your family. You requested that the Council could keep the refunded amount but not remove your name from the ORE candidate list as it is your dream to be a dentist in the UK.
35. On 16 July 2025, you wrote to the Council again via email and reiterated that you weren't aware of the DCP application and registration process. You stated that you immediately withdrew your application as soon as you realised that it could cause trouble, and that you were misinformed about the DCP registration process. You again requested that the Council does not remove you from the ORE candidate list and requested that the Council keep in mind your individual circumstances. In particular that you had already lost the ORE part 1 attempt in April which cost you the exam fee and airplane tickets (both of which were non-refundable).
36. You concluded your email and requested the Council be kind as your whole career is dependent on this decision and that you didn't intend to proceed with the application and that you were no longer requesting a refund.
37. On 26 August 2025, you wrote to the Council via email and requested an update regarding the decision to remove you from the ORE candidate list.
38. On 27 August 2025, the Council responded to you and stated that response letter was being finalised and that it would be sent to you via email.

39. On 27 August 2025, you wrote to the Council via email and thanked the Council for refunding the ORE examination fee (later corrected to DCP fee). you again expressed your apologies for the mistake you made in altering your documents, you stated it wasn't your intention to mislead or act dishonestly. You reiterated the sentiment of previous correspondence and requested that you be allowed to continue as a candidate for the ORE examination.

Registrar's decision on application for registration

40. On 08 October 2025, the Council wrote to you via email and attached the outcome letter which summarised the events which led to you being removed from the ORE candidate list and explained that good character is a requirement under section 15 (3)(b) of the Act. It further detailed that the Council had considered the application in accordance with the PSA guidance on good character along with the GDC Standards for the Dental Team.

41. The letter concluded that the Council has determined to decline your application on the basis that you had not satisfied the good character requirements, the reasons were:

- You acted in a dishonest manner by providing fraudulent documents in support of your DCP application.
- Registrants are expected to be aware of the requirement to adhere to high standards of behaviour and integrity, set by the GDC and PSA.
- To register you at this time would risk undermining public confidence in the profession.

42. The letter outlined that you had the opportunity to appeal this decision and that your appeal should be received by 7 November 2025.

Notice of Appeal

43. On 22 October 2025, the Council received your notice of appeal via email. In your appeal you stated:

- You accepted responsibility for your past action and expressed deep regret and remorse. You stated that you did not dispute the seriousness of your mistake but to request the opportunity to demonstrate that you have learnt from it and that you are capable of upholding the integrity of the profession. You stated that you are a young dentist who made an error early in your career and that it was a grave lapse in judgment and you were ashamed of it.
- You misunderstood the documentation process and acted on poor advice, wrongly believing that your BDS degree could be equivalent to a DCP degree. You stated that once the caseworker contacted you for clarification, you immediately withdrew your application.
- You stated that you never intended to gain an advantage and that your actions were misguided and naïve rather than deceptive. You detailed that you had since written a letter of apology to your caseworkers, explaining the misunderstanding and expressing remorse.
- You stated that if you had a bad intention, you would never have admitted the mistake and instead would have denied the alteration.

• [PRIVATE].

- You explained that you had used this period to reflect on your mistake and study the GDC Standards for the Dental Team as well as the PSA guidance on good character.

- You asked that you are given a second chance to prove that you had learned from this mistake as your lifelong dream was to practise dentistry in the UK. You requested that the Committee reconsider your eligibility to remain on and be reinstated to the ORE candidate list.

Today's Hearing

Preliminary Matter

44. At the outset of the hearing Mr Molloy made an application for the matters relating to your health and personal life to be held in private.
45. You explained that you agreed with the application.
46. The panel accepted the advice of the Legal Adviser.
47. Having been made aware that there may be discussion of health and other personal matters the Committee agreed that those parts of the hearing should be held in private.

Oral Evidence and Submissions

48. Mr Molloy, on behalf of the GDC, took the Committee through the background to your case.
49. Mr Molloy submitted that the GDC's position is that your actions were dishonest and deliberate and that the Committee should maintain the decision of the Registrar and dismiss the appeal.
50. You gave oral evidence at this hearing. You told the Committee that you admit that you had lied in your application and that you had falsified your qualification to seek admission onto the DCP register. You stated that you have apologised for your actions and that you have done ethics courses following these matters. You explained, in response to questions, that you were fully aware of what you were doing when you forged the BSc certificate and accepted that it was not a mistake.
51. You told the Committee that you withdrew your application soon after the forged qualification came to light. You accepted that your intention was to seek registration as a DCP when you knew that you were not qualified to do so.
52. You confirmed that you were not mistaken in sending in a false qualification but rather it was a deliberate attempt to deceive the GDC into believing that you were qualified to be on the DCP register. You agreed that you understood that what you were doing was dishonest, but that due to personal circumstances you made a poor decision under pressure.
53. In response to questions, you explained that the references that you provided are from a dentist who works closely with you and is your supervisor. You explained that you have worked with him since late 2022.

54. In answer to questions from the Committee, you explained that if your dental colleagues were to know about this it would be shameful for you and you would feel stressed but would tell them everything. You accepted that your dental colleagues would think that your conduct had fallen below the standards expected. You also stated that if patients were to find out it would undermine their trust in you. You explained that if you were placed in a stressful situation in the future, you would seek guidance from colleagues and assess the situation as you were aware that you should always act with integrity. You also referred to the ethics courses that you have undertaken.

The Committee's Powers

55. A decision by the Registrar not to register a person's name in the dental care professional's register is an appealable registration decision under Section 36J and Schedule 4A of the Act. Paragraph 4(8) of Schedule 4A to the Act provides that the Committee may determine to:

- dismiss the Appeal;
- allow the Appeal and quash the decision appealed against;
- substitute for the decision appealed against any other decision which could have been made by the Registrar; or
- remit the case to the Registrar to dispose of in accordance with the directions of the Registration Appeals Committee.

The Committee's Decision

56. The Committee has carefully considered your appeal. It has taken account of all the documentary evidence, the submissions made by Mr Molloy, on behalf of the Registrar, and your submissions, as well as your oral evidence. It accepted the advice of the Legal Adviser.

57. When considering your appeal, the Committee had sight of the test for dishonesty and the PSA guidance on good character. The Committee was satisfied that based on all the information before it, including your admissions, your actions in forging and then submitting a fraudulent qualification for registration onto the DCP register were dishonest.

58. The Committee was aware that the integrity of the register is paramount, and that there is a need to ensure that those who are granted registration are deemed to be of good character. You have admitted to dishonest behaviour by attempting to gain entry onto the register through fraudulent means. The consequence of your dishonesty has the potential to undermine public confidence in the profession, as patients and the public have the right to trust that their dentists and dental care professionals have properly met the standards required for registration.

59. Furthermore, the Committee noted your answers during oral evidence to the questions put to you and was not satisfied that you fully appreciated the significance of your actions. You accepted that you only withdrew your application for registration on the DCP register once you were questioned about the validity of the qualification. The Committee was not satisfied that you had a proper understanding of the standards expected or the ramifications of an unqualified person being allowed on the register.

60. Further, the Committee could not be satisfied that you would not act in a similar manner if faced with another stressful situation. Although the Committee acknowledged that you have apologised for your actions, it was also aware that you maintained that it was an innocent mistake and a misunderstanding of the process, as late as your notice of appeal, and only once you had been challenged in regard to your submitted documentation did you acknowledge your dishonesty.
61. For all these reasons, the Committee was not satisfied that you have provided sufficient evidence to demonstrate that you are of good character as required for registration.
62. Therefore, the Committee has determined to dismiss your appeal.
63. That concludes this hearing.