

**Public Hearing  
Registrations Appeal Committee  
Registrations Appeal Hearing  
31 October 2025**

**Name:** Rojas Noriega, Amanda

**Contact number:** CAS-211693-L6K1L6

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**General Dental Council:** Ms Sophia Kerridge, Counsel  
Instructed by Sushuma Chandrasekhar, ILAS.

**Appellant:** Present and not represented

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**Decision:** Appeal dismissed

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**Committee members:** Zareen Elleby (Chair, DCP Member)  
Tara Willmott (Lay Member)  
Melissa Oura (Dental Member)

**Professional Adviser** John Darby

**Legal adviser:** William Hoskins

**Committee Secretary:** Jamie Barge

1. This Registrations Appeal Committee (RAC) has convened in accordance with the '*General Dental Council (Registration Appeals) Rules 2006*' ('the Appeal Rules'), pursuant to Schedule 4A of the '*Dentists Act 1984*' (as amended) ('the Act'). The purpose of the hearing is to consider your appeal against the decision taken by the GDC's Registrar to refuse your application for entry to the register as a dental Hygienist.
2. The members of the Committee, as well as the Legal Adviser and the Committee Secretary, conducted the hearing remotely via Microsoft Teams in line with current General Dental Council (GDC) practice.
3. You were present at the hearing and unrepresented.
4. Ms Sophie Kerridge, Counsel, appeared as case presenter on behalf of the GDC.

### **Background**

5. You first registered with the GDC on 19 April 2020, with the title dental nurse, having been awarded the National Diploma in Dental Nursing NEBDN in 2020.
6. On 8 June 2023, the Council received an application form from you for registration as a dental hygienist.
7. On 23 October 2023 the Council emailed you, advising that your application was deficient in certain aspects of your Certificate of Good Standing ("CGS"), degree/diploma certificate and transcript, English language, CPD Certification, self-declarations and self-reflections.
8. On 7 December 2023, the Council wrote to you to confirm your application was ready for consideration by an Assessment Panel in February 2024.

### **First assessment of application and decision**

9. Three assessors formed a Registration Assessment Panel ("the Panel") on 15 February 2024 and conducted an assessment of your application. Having considered your application, the Panel did not recommend entry onto the register, as the evidence provided by you did not demonstrate that you possessed the requisite knowledge and skill to be eligible for registration as a dental hygienist.
10. The Panel had identified 43 learning outcomes as not having been covered as part of your training or professional experience.
11. The Registrar relied on the recommendation of the Panel and wrote to you on 19 February 2024 rejecting your application for registration.
12. The GDC wrote to you advising that should you have any new or additional information which would address the deficiencies identified by the Panel, you could submit these documents within 28 days of the letter. The letter also advised you of your right to appeal the decision.
13. On 17 April 2024, the Council emailed you, firstly enquiring whether you were able to provide an additional professional reference and secondly advising that the e-learning for healthcare certificates could not be accepted in their current format as there was insufficient detail about the content. The panel assessors were therefore unable to consider the eLFH certificates against the relevant learning outcomes.

14. On 3 May 2024, the Council emailed you to state that clinical references were required otherwise panel assessors would not be able to assess the learning outcomes relating to the references and the application would still be deemed to be deficient.
15. Thereafter, you submitted further documentation in support of your application.

#### Reassessment of application and decision

16. Three assessors formed a Panel on 8 May 2024 and conducted a reassessment of your updated application.
17. The Panel considered the documents provided and again, did not recommend entry onto the register as the evidence provided by you did not demonstrate that you possessed the requisite knowledge and skill to be eligible for registration as a dental hygienist. The Panel noted that the course provider of the Appellant's Dental Hygiene diploma, Inovacion en Formacion Planeta Formacion y Universidades, had confirmed in writing to the GDC that your Dental Hygiene course was taught in 'distance mode' (that the programme was predominantly taught remotely, with only 65 hours of face-to-face experience) and the Panel considered that this would not be equivalent to a dental hygiene qualification taught in the UK.
18. In the reassessment, 43 learning outcomes were identified as being insufficiently demonstrated in relation to your dental hygienist application.
19. The Registrar relied on the recommendation of the Panel and wrote to you on 19 May 2025 with the outcome of the reassessment. The Registrar therefore refused your application for registration as a dental hygienist.

#### Notice of Appeal

20. On 18 June 2025, the GDC received a Notice of Appeal ("NOA") from you in which you stated that you were appealing the Registrar's decision not to register you as a dental hygienist.
21. You stated that, you are appealing the refusal decision as it was "*very unfair*". You noted that you had provided all the supporting documents mentioned, including a clinical reference from a dentist in Spain and your academic documents. You asserted that your work experience, gained working alongside a dentist in Spain, covered the scope of a dental hygienist in the UK and therefore demonstrates that you are capable of working as such in the UK.

#### **Evidence**

22. The Committee was assisted by oral evidence provided by you under affirmation during the course of the appeal hearing.

#### **Submissions**

23. Ms Kerridge guided the Committee through the GDC's Case Summary and stated that two separate Panels have assessed your qualification and the supporting documentation provided but continued to have concerns that a number of learning outcomes had not been covered or met. She stated that both Panels considered that you were not eligible for registration as a dental hygienist as you had not demonstrated that you possess the requisite knowledge and skill under section 36C(4) of the Act.

24. Ms Kerridge referred the Committee to the documentation you have provided for the purposes of today's appeal hearing. She invited the Committee to consider all the documentary evidence and your oral evidence. Ms Kerridge submitted that it is a matter for this appeal Committee to determine whether the documentation and oral submissions sufficiently address the outstanding areas of competency outlined by both Panels and whether you are eligible to join the register as a dental hygienist.
25. You stated to the Committee that you have provided all the documentation that the GDC has requested. When asked about your undergraduate training undertaken in Spain, you acknowledged it only involved 65 hours of face-to-face sessions. However, you stated that you took exams every 3 months together with completing relevant training and observing dental techniques. You stated you had regular feedback with assessors and subsequently passed all relevant exams.
26. You submitted that the identified learning outcomes have been carried out by you. You told the Committee that in working in the United Kingdom as a dental nurse, you "*have had the opportunity*", on a daily basis, to work with dentists and dental hygienists and to observe them. You stated you have over 200 hours experience of shadowing dental hygienists. In addition, you stated you have completed over 500 hours clinical experience, i.e. 2 weeks every 3 months over a 12 month period, whilst working as a dental hygienist in Spain.
27. In answer to questions from the Professional Adviser and the Committee, you set out the background to your undergraduate experience in Spain, including the practical clinical experience you had gained. You referenced working on phantom heads in order to develop your manual skills. You also provided details of the type of work you currently undertake as a dental nurse in the United Kingdom, as well as dental experience as a dental hygienist in Spain, most recently for a few weeks in June 2025. You acknowledged that during your undergraduate training you worked on fellow students not on actual patients. You confirmed in your oral evidence this would be about three or four individuals. You told the Committee that the scope of practice of a dental hygienist in Spain is narrower than that in the UK. For example, a dental hygienist in Spain is not permitted to administer local anaesthetics, so this had not formed part of your training.

### **Committee's decision and reasons**

28. In coming to its decision, the Committee considered all the evidence before it today. It took account of the submissions made by both parties and accepted the advice of the Legal Adviser. The Committee was also assisted by the Professional Adviser, Mr Darby, who questioned you in relation to your clinical experience.
29. The Committee bore in mind that the burden was on you to satisfy it that you have the requisite knowledge and skill required by section 36C(4) of the Dentists Act (Matter C) for registration as a dental hygienist. The Committee also remained mindful of the over-arching statutory objective of the GDC and its task in assessing whether you had the requisite knowledge and skills to practise as a dental hygienist.
30. In its consideration of your clinical experience, the Committee noted that you have been practising as a dental nurse in the UK since 2019, in addition to intermittently practising in Spain as a dental hygienist for brief periods of time. In your oral evidence, you went through your dental experience particularly in Spain and your undergraduate training. Whilst the Committee accepted that you were knowledgeable in many areas of dental practice, knowledge was not a substitute for clinical experience.

31. You provided a professional reference from your employer in Spain. However, this did not detail the dates and time periods, nor the number of patients it covered. The reference spoke of your competency in your role as a dental hygienist. However, whilst the Committee took account of the positive reference, the reference does not address the specific learning outcomes, identified by the two Panels in sufficient detail. The reference also contained a number of inaccuracies. The reference stated that you had provided local anaesthetic to patients in Spain as well as performing other dental tasks which you confirmed you had not done.
32. The Committee noted that during your undergraduate training, you had no experience of treating actual patients. Your training involved your examination of fellow dental hygiene students. The Committee notes that you had attended theory workshops, which is not actual practical experience. You confirmed in your oral evidence that you only have acquired 65 hours of face-to-face experience during your two-year course. In the United Kingdom, a dental hygienist in their final year alone would be expected to complete at least ten times more hours of treatment on a wide range of patients.
33. On questioning about the management and treatment of a patient with significant periodontal disease you were unable to give satisfactory answers in accordance with current guidelines. In addition, there was a lack of breadth of undergraduate experience to treat a full range of ages of patients and with different dental health issues. The Committee determined this was insufficient to demonstrate an adequate level of quality assured and monitored clinical experience for the role of dental hygienist in the UK. The Committee concluded that you do not have the experience and exposure of performing the full scope of practice as a dental hygienist. You accepted this during Committee questioning.
34. For the reasons set out above, the Committee was not satisfied that you have sufficiently demonstrated all the requisite knowledge and skills required of a dental hygienist in the United Kingdom. It determined to dismiss your appeal for registration on to the Register as a dental hygienist.
35. That concludes this determination.