

**HEARING PART HEARD IN PUBLIC****Professional Conduct Committee  
Review Hearing****19 June 2025****Name:** Price, Lynn**Registration number:** 153277**Case number:** CAS-197298-J8W5G6

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**General Dental Council:** Holly Watt, IHLPS**Registrant:** Not present and unrepresented.

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**Fitness to practise:** Impaired by reason of misconduct, conviction and adverse health**Outcome:** Suspension extended (with a review)**Duration:** 12 months

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**Committee members:** Peter Ommer (Chair and Dentist member)  
Jane Jones (Lay member)  
Julie Byrom (DCP member)**Legal adviser:** Peter Jennings**Committee Secretary:** Jenny Hazell

**At this hearing the Committee made a determination that includes some private information. That information has been omitted from this public version of the determination, and this public document has been marked to show where private material has been removed.**

1. This is a resumed hearing of Miss Price's case before the Professional Conduct Committee (PCC), pursuant to Section 36Q of the Dentists Act 1984 (as amended) ('the Act'). The hearing is being conducted remotely via Microsoft Teams.
2. The purpose of the hearing has been for the PCC to conduct a review of the substantive order of suspension currently in place on Miss Price's registration.
3. Neither party is present today, following a request made by the General Dental Council (GDC) for the review to take place on the papers. The Committee received from the GDC an indexed review hearing bundle as well as the Council's written submissions.
4. The Committee first considered the issues of service and proceeding with the hearing in the absence of Miss Price and any representatives for either party. The Committee heard and accepted the advice of the Legal Adviser in respect of both matters.

#### **Decision on service**

5. The Committee considered whether the notice of hearing had been served on Miss Price in accordance with Rules 28 and 65 of the General Dental Council (GDC) (Fitness to Practice) Rules Order of Council 2006 ("the Rules").
6. The Committee received a copy of the Notice of Hearing dated 29 April 2025 ('the notice'). The letter notified Miss Price of the date, time and venue (Microsoft Teams) of the review hearing, her right to attend and be represented and that the Committee had the power to proceed with the hearing in her absence. The Committee was satisfied that the notice was compliant with Rule 28(1).
7. The Committee had before it a screen shot of Miss Price's registered address as it appears in the GDC's Register. This address matched the same address as that shown on the notice, in accordance with Section 50A(2) of the Dentists Act 1984 (as amended) (the Act). The Committee noted the screenshot of the envelope confirms that the notice was sent by special delivery on 29 April 2025. The Committee took into account that there is no requirement within the Rules for the GDC to prove delivery of the notice, only that it was sent. However, the Royal Mail track and trace receipt confirmed that the notice was delivered to Miss Price's registered address on 30 April 2025. The notice of hearing was also sent to Miss Price's registered email address via email on 29 April 2025.
8. Having regard to all the information before it, the Committee was satisfied that the notice of hearing had been served on Miss Price in accordance with the Rules and the Act.

#### **Decision on whether to proceed in the absence of Miss Price and on the papers**

9. The Committee next considered whether to exercise its discretion under Rule 54 to proceed with the hearing in the absence of Miss Price and any representative for either party. It approached this issue with the utmost care and caution. The Committee took into account the factors to be considered in reaching its decision. It remained mindful that fairness to Miss Price was an important consideration, but it also bore in mind the need to be fair to the GDC, and the public interest in the expeditious statutory review of the current suspension order. The Committee noted the written submission made by the GDC inviting it to exercise its discretion to proceed with the matter in the absence of Miss Price and on the papers.

10. The Committee was satisfied that all reasonable efforts had been made by the GDC to notify Miss Price of this hearing. Miss Price was informed in the notice that, should the GDC not hear from her by 6 May 2025 the GDC intended for the hearing to be held on the papers and in the absence of both parties. The GDC has not received a response from Miss Price.

11. The Committee noted that the GDC made further efforts on 12 May 2025 to contact Miss Price via email to confirm whether Miss Price had any objections to the hearing taking place on the papers. No response was received from Miss Price.

12. The GDC hearing bundle also contained a telephone note dated 23 May 2025 which shows that the GDC's Fitness to Practise Presentation Lawyer made a further attempt to contact Miss Price by telephone on 23 May 2025. Miss Price did not answer the telephone. Following the telephone call, that same member of staff sent an email to Miss Price on 23 May 2025 to confirm that as the Council had not received a response from the Registrant, arrangements would be made for the hearing to take place on the papers and in the absence of parties. She was invited to submit any documents or submissions to the GDC by 12 June 2025. No response was received.

13. The Committee noted that there have been numerous attempts by the GDC to contact Miss Price and to engage with her. There appears to be a pattern of non-engagement with her regulatory body.

14. There was no request from Miss Price for an adjournment of the hearing. In considering whether to exercise its discretion to proceed in her absence the Committee had regard, amongst other things, to the public interest in the expeditious disposal of this case, and the requirement to review this order before it expires, as well as fairness to Miss Price. It notes that the current order is due to be reviewed no later than 23 July 2025. The Committee has concluded that an adjournment is unlikely to secure Miss Price's attendance at a future hearing and it was satisfied there was no good reason to adjourn. For all these reasons the Committee determined to proceed with the hearing in Miss Price's absence.

#### **Application for the hearing to be held in private.**

15. The GDC made an application under Rule 53(2) that the hearing should be held partly in private where there is reference to Miss Price's health.

16. The Committee has accepted the advice of the Legal Adviser. It has borne in mind that there is a presumption within the Rules that all hearings are conducted in public. However, the Committee had regard to its discretion under Rule 53(2) to hold all or part of a hearing in private "*where the interests of the parties or the protection of the private and family life of the respondent or any other person so requires*". The Committee has noted the confidential nature of some of the matters to be considered. It was satisfied that it would be appropriate for the hearing to move into private session, when necessary to discuss those private matters, and that this was required so as to protect Miss Price's private and family life.

#### **Case background**

17. Miss Price's case was first considered by a PCC at a hearing in June 2023. Miss Price did not attend that hearing nor was she represented. That initial PCC considered allegations against her brought by the GDC. The overriding allegation against Miss Price was one of impaired fitness to practise by reason of her conviction, misconduct and adverse health.

18. The PCC in June 2023 found a number of allegations against Miss Price proved including:

- She was convicted on 02 August 2017 at Merseyside Magistrates Court of driving a motor vehicle with alcohol in excess of the prescribed limit, contrary to section 5(1)(a) of the Road Traffic Act 1988 and Schedule 2 to the Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988.
- From 21 May 2021 until on or about 14 July 2021 Miss Price failed to respond to the General Dental Council's letter of 07 May 2021 which required Miss Price to provide specified information, including proof of indemnity arrangements, employment details and [IN PRIVATE].
- From 21 May 2021 until on or about 14 July 2021 Miss Price failed to cooperate with an investigation conducted by the General Dental Council [IN PRIVATE].
- From 02 August 2017 until on or about 22 April 2021 Miss Price did not inform her then employer of her criminal conviction, and that her conduct was misleading and was dishonest.
- Miss Price provided false information to her former employer regarding her continued employment in dentistry, by stating that she had declined a role at a new employer, when in fact Miss Price had accepted employment with them. Her conduct in this regard was misleading and was dishonest.
- Miss Price was suffering from an adverse health condition [IN PRIVATE].

19. The initial PCC found that Miss Price's actions in her failure to co-operate with the GDC's investigation into concerns about her health, failure to inform her employer of her criminal conviction and providing false information to her former employer, regarding her continued employment in dentistry amounted to misconduct. It determined that Miss Price's behaviour had fallen far short of the standards of conduct that were proper in the circumstances.

20. The initial PCC determined that Miss Price's fitness to practise was impaired by reason of her misconduct, conviction and adverse health. That PCC noted the absence of any evidence from Miss Price in relation to her current circumstances, her remorse and/or any steps she had taken to prevent recurrence in relation to the misconduct and conviction. There was no current information in relation to Miss Price's management of her adverse health condition.

21. The PCC imposed a suspension order for a period of 12 months and directed a review prior to the expiry of the 12-month period.

#### **First review hearing – 12 June 2024**

22. The PCC reviewed the suspension order placed on Miss Price's registration. Miss Price did not attend the hearing and she was not represented.

23. The GDC's position at that time was that Miss Price had failed to engage with the process, provide information as to her current insight and remediation with regard to her misconduct and conviction. In respect of Miss Price's health [IN PRIVATE].

24. The PCC was satisfied that Miss Price failed to provide evidence of her insight and remediation to demonstrate that she has fulfilled the recommendations made by the previous PCC. It therefore considered that there remains a risk of repetition, and consequently a risk to the public on account of her misconduct, conviction and her health. With regard to Miss Price's misconduct, the PCC considered that there is no evidence of her understanding of the importance of fully engaging with her regulatory body, and the impact on its ability to properly carry out its regulatory functions to protect the public.

25. In relation to Miss Price's conviction, the PCC considered that in the absence of sufficient insight and reflection in relation to the circumstances and the impact of her drink driving offence, there remained a risk of repetition.

26. [IN PRIVATE].

27. The PCC considered there would be an ongoing risk of repetition, and risk to the public on account of Miss Price's misconduct, conviction and her health, if she were permitted to return to unrestricted practice. It determined that a finding of current impairment was necessary for the protection of the public and was required in the wider public interest on all three statutory grounds (misconduct, conviction and her health). The PCC was of the view that public confidence in the dental profession would be undermined if a finding of current impairment were not made in these circumstances.

28. The PCC determined to extend the suspension order on Miss Price's registration for a further period of 12 months, with a review. It noted that Miss Price would need to satisfy the reviewing Committee that she had adequately addressed the concerns including:

- *A detailed reflective statement demonstrating Miss Price's insight into and understanding of her misconduct and conviction and its impact on the dental profession and the public confidence.*
- *Evidence of engagement with the GDC [IN PRIVATE].*

### **Submissions**

29. This is the second review of the suspension order first imposed on Miss Price's registration in June 2023. In reviewing the order today, the Committee considered all the evidence contained in the GDC's hearing bundle. It took account of the GDC's written submissions (undated).

30. The Committee accepted the advice of the Legal Adviser on its powers and the matters to which it should have regard.

31. In its written submissions the GDC provided an update since the last review hearing in June 2024. It advised that on 19 June 2024 and 4 March 2025, the GDC wrote to Miss Price to remind her of the recommendations for the reviewing Committee. No response was received from Miss Price. On 26 March 2025 and 9 April 2025, the GDC wrote to Miss Price to request her consent to attend a health assessment. No response was received to this.

32. The GDC submitted that there is a persuasive burden on Miss Price to satisfy the Committee that her fitness to practise is no longer impaired. Miss Price has failed to engage in the process and provide information to address the concerns that were identified by the previous Committees. Miss Price has continued to fail to engage with the GDC and there remains an absence of any information in relation to her insight and remediation into the concerns raised. There is no up to date information in respect of Miss Price's health.

33. The GDC submits that Miss Price's fitness to practise remains impaired by reason of her misconduct, health and conviction. The GDC invites this Committee to extend the suspension order in place on Miss Price's registration by a period of 12 months with a review.

34. No written submissions were received from Miss Price.

### **Decision on current impairment**



35. The Committee first considered whether Miss Price's fitness to practise remains impaired by reason of her misconduct, conviction and adverse health. In doing so, it exercised its independent judgement. It had regard to the over-arching objective of the GDC, which is: the protection, promotion and maintenance of the health, safety and well-being of the public; the promotion and maintenance of public confidence in the dental profession; and the promotion and maintenance of proper professional standards and conduct for the members of the dental profession.

36. The Committee took into account that, at this review, the persuasive burden rests with Miss Price to demonstrate that she has addressed her past impairments.

37. The Committee noted that Miss Price has not engaged with the GDC over the past two years. Consequently, there is no material change in position since the last review hearing in June 2024. There remains an absence of information in respect of Miss Price's insight and remediation into the concerns raised and therefore a risk of repetition.

38. In respect of Miss Price's misconduct, there is no evidence of her demonstrating an understanding of the importance of engaging fully with her regulatory body and the impact of being able to carry out its regulatory functions to protect the public, nor of her understanding of the impact of her dishonesty on the public and the profession.

39. Turning to Miss Price's conviction dated 2 August 2017 for driving a motor vehicle on 11 July 2017 with alcohol in excess of the prescribed limit, there is no evidence of insight or remediation in relation to the circumstances of that incident and the impact of her drink driving offence on public confidence in the profession.

40. Lastly, in respect of Miss Price's health, [IN PRIVATE].

41. In all the circumstances, the Committee considered that there would be an ongoing risk to the public if Miss Price were permitted to return to unrestricted practice. A finding of impairment is therefore necessary for the protection of the public on all three grounds – namely misconduct, conviction and Miss Price's adverse health.

42. The Committee also considered that such a finding is required in the wider public interest, to maintain public confidence in the dental profession. Miss Price's lack of engagement has continued over the past year, and there is no evidence to suggest that Miss Price has made any efforts to address the matters found proved against her in June 2023. The Committee was of the view that public confidence in the dental profession would be undermined if a finding of impairment were not made in these circumstances. It also remained mindful of its duty to uphold proper professional standards.

43. Accordingly, the Committee determined that Miss Price's fitness to practise remains impaired by reason of her misconduct, conviction and adverse health.

#### **Decision on sanction**

44. The Committee next considered what action to take in respect of Miss Price's registration. It had regard to section 36Q(1) of the Act, which sets out the options available to the Committee at this review.

45. In reaching its decision, the Committee took into account the '*Guidance for the Practice Committees including Indicative Sanctions Guidance (effective from October 2016; revised December 2020)*'. It noted that the purpose of any sanction is not to be punitive, although it may have that effect, but to protect the public and the wider public interest. The Committee applied the principle of proportionality, balancing the public interest with Miss Price's own interests.

46. In the absence of any evidence to indicate that the serious concerns have been adequately addressed, the Committee determined that it would be inappropriate to terminate the current suspension and take no further action. The Committee has concluded that such a course of action would not protect the public or uphold the wider public interest.

47. The Committee considered whether to impose a period of conditional registration. It concluded that conditions would not be appropriate or proportionate. Miss Price has not engaged with these proceedings over some years. There is, therefore, no evidence that she would comply with any conditions that could be formulated. [IN PRIVATE] The Committee decided that in the absence of such evidence, conditional registration would not serve to protect the public, nor would such an outcome satisfy the public interest.

48. The Committee next considered whether to suspend Miss Price's registration for a further specified period. In doing so, the Committee took into account that there has been no material change of circumstances since the initial hearing. Miss Price has continued not to engage with the fitness to practise proceedings. It is satisfied that an extension of the current suspension order is necessary to protect the public.

49. In reaching its decision, the Committee considered Miss Price's interests and the potential consequences that a further period of suspension may have for her. However, it decided that the public interest outweighs Miss Price's own interests in this particular case.

50. Accordingly, the Committee has directed that Miss Price's registration be suspended for a further period of 12 months.

51. The Committee also directs that the suspension order be reviewed before its expiry. Miss Price will be informed of the date and time of that resumed hearing. That Committee will consider what action it should take in relation to her registration. Miss Price will need to satisfy another Committee reviewing her case that she has addressed the concerns identified by this Committee and that she is fit to practise.

52. The reviewing Committee may be assisted to receive:

- *Evidence of engagement with the GDC [IN PRIVATE].*
- *A detailed reflective statement demonstrating Miss Price's insight into and understanding of her misconduct and conviction and its impact on the dental profession and the public confidence.*

53. That concludes this determination.