

HELD PARTLY IN PRIVATE HEARING**Health Committee
Review Hearing****10-12 August 2026****Name:** BELL, George David**Registration number:** 65076**Case number:** CAS-166830-Z8W0K1

General Dental Council: David Patience, Counsel.
Instructed by Natalie Ayling, Capsticks**Registrant:** Present and not represented

Fitness to practise: Impaired by reason of adverse health**Outcome:** Conditions extended and varied (with a review)**Duration:** 18 months

Committee members: Tanya Viehoff (Chair, Dental Care Professional)
Susan Parkins (Lay)
Jasdeep Badyal (Dentist)**Legal adviser:** Stephen Bate**Committee Secretary:** Jamie Barge

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

Mr Bell,

1. This is a Health Committee (HC) review hearing of your case, pursuant to Section 27C of the Dentists Act 1984 (as amended) ('the Act').
2. The hearing was conducted remotely over three days (10-12 August 2026) via Microsoft Teams in line with current General Dental Council (GDC) practice.
3. You were present at the hearing and unrepresented.
4. Mr David Patience, Counsel, appeared on behalf of the GDC.
5. **[PRIVATE].**

Preliminary matters

Decision and reasons for the hearing to be held entirely in private

6. Mr Patience made an application under Rule 53(2)(a) of the General Dental Council (Fitness to Practise) Rules Order of Council 2006 ('the Rules') that the hearing be held entirely in private. He submitted that the matters in this case are inextricably linked to your health, and there is no public interest in the details of your health conditions being publicly discussed.
7. You invited the Committee to consider that it would be in the public interest for the hearing to be held in public. In addition, you stated this would ensure openness and fairness in the proceedings.
8. The Committee has had regard to the submissions made by both parties. It has accepted the advice of the Legal Adviser. The Committee has borne in mind that the matters in this case are related solely to your health and private life. However, it notes that you have waived your rights to protect your private information, and are keen for the whole of your hearing to be in public. Accordingly, it has determined to hold the hearing in public, but in private when references are made to the personal life or health of third parties, in order to protect their private life, in accordance with Rule 53(2)(a).

Request for reasonable adjustments during the hearing

9. You then made a request for some reasonable adjustments to ensure that you were able to fully participate in the hearing. Firstly, a request that you would not be required to appear on camera during the hearing, but would remain present and engaged in the hearing through audio participation. You stated it would make the process easier for you. Secondly, you be given regular breaks.
10. Mr Patience raised no objection to these requests. The Committee accepted the advice of the Legal Adviser.

11. The Committee recognised that it was important that you be given the opportunity to participate in this hearing of your case and that the proposed requests were appropriate and reasonable.

Background

12. You first appeared before the Health Committee (HC) on 1 September 2014 when your fitness to practise was found to be impaired by reason of your adverse health.

13. **[PRIVATE]** The HC directed that your registration be subject to conditions of practice for a period of three years, with a review hearing to take place prior to the end of that period of conditional registration.

14. The HC reviewed the conditions on 8 September 2017 and determined that your fitness to practise remained impaired by reason of adverse health. It directed that the conditions be extended and varied for a further period of three years, with a review prior to the end of this extended period.

15. On 4 September 2020, the HC determined that your fitness to practise remained impaired by reason of adverse health. The HC directed that your registration be subject to an order of suspension for a period of four months, again with a review.

16. On 26 January 2021 and 20 July 2021 respectively, the HC reviewed the order of suspension. On each occasion, the HC determined that your fitness to practise remained impaired by reason of adverse health and extended your suspension by six months, with a review to take place before the expiry of the Order.

17. The HC conducted its fifth review of the Order on 19 January 2022. The HC determined that your fitness to practise remained impaired by reason of adverse health. The HC directed that the suspension Order be extended for a period of 12 months, with a review before its expiry.

18. The sixth review took place on 20 January 2023. The HC determined that your fitness to practise remained impaired by reason of adverse health. The HC considered that the risks could now be suitably managed through conditions of practice and accordingly directed that the Order of suspension be replaced with one of conditional registration for a period of 12 months. The HC also directed a review of the Order before its expiry.

19. The HC reviewed the order on 6 and 7 February 2024. **[PRIVATE]**.

20. The HC concluded that your fitness to practise remained impaired by reason of adverse health. It determined to vary and extend the current order of conditions for a further 12 months and directed a review before the end of this period of extension.

21. The eighth review took place between 17 and 19 February 2025, where that HC review determined that your fitness to practise remained impaired by reason of adverse health. That Committee directed that the conditions be extended and varied **[PRIVATE]** for a further period of 18 months. The HC also directed a review of the Order before its expiry.

This review

22. In comprehensively reviewing this case, the Committee has considered all of the oral and documentary evidence presented to it, including your own oral evidence. The Committee

took account of the submissions made by Mr Patience and those made by you. The Committee accepted the advice of both the Legal and Medical Adviser.

23. Mr Patience provided an update since the last review. He referred the Committee to the correspondence from you with the GDC since February 2025. [PRIVATE].

24. [PRIVATE].

25. [PRIVATE].

26. You gave oral evidence to the Committee where you referred to the history of your personal life and your health condition. In respect of your current impairment, [PRIVATE]. You stated you have not practised as a dentist since March 2020. You stated you have completed a couple of post graduate courses. You stated you have not done the required CPD since the last review, as you state there was no immediate prospect of work. In addition, you have not undertaken any paid employment in the last 18 months. However, you stated that you have been offered a dental position by a friend with a potential start date of around March 2027. Finally in terms of impairment, you accept that given what has happened over the past 8 years, your fitness to practise remains impaired.

27. In respect of sanction and the existing conditions, you stated that having been out of practice since March 2020, you acknowledge that you have become de-skilled, but you maintain it would be better “*to get back on the bike*” and to take a gradual approach to return to practice.

28. You answered a number of questions from [PRIVATE] the Committee.

29. Mr Patience submitted that your fitness to practise remains impaired by reason of your adverse health. He invited the Committee to conclude that the most appropriate and proportionate course of action would be to extend the current order of conditions for a further 18 months.

30. In respect of current impairment, he submitted that in a review hearing there is a persuasive burden on you to demonstrate that you have sufficiently addressed the concerns expressed when your fitness to practise was previously determined upon. He submitted that you have not discharged the burden to demonstrate that you are no longer impaired by reason of your adverse health. [PRIVATE], and accordingly as a result that there is a risk of you breaching parts of the GDC standards. He submitted if there is a risk of those standards being breached there is also therefore a risk to the protection of the public.

31. [PRIVATE].

32. Thirdly, Mr Patience submitted you have not yet returned to work in a dental setting, so there is no evidence as to how doing so might impact on your health condition and behaviour. Mr Patience submitted the last review hearing imposed conditions designed to assist your return to safe practice. Until that has occurred and there is evidence of you being able to practice safely under those conditions, therefore there is no evidence that you are fit to practise without any restrictions. Fourthly, you have not undertaken appropriate CPD and therefore you are not currently compliant with the GDC’s CPD requirements. Mr Patience submitted this is another reason why this Committee could not be confident that you are fit to practise.

33. Mr Patience submitted [PRIVATE]. Therefore you are still currently impaired as there remains a risk in relation to both public protection and public interest.

34. Mr Patience submitted that the appropriate and proportionate order remains one of conditions. He referred the Committee to the current conditions and submitted that these should be continued for a further 18 months with a review. This period would enable you to take further steps to be compliant with CPD [PRIVATE].

35. [PRIVATE]. You acknowledge that your fitness to practise remains impaired and that given your condition, a risk to patients remains. You stated you want to return to work and that the current conditions are “*a little bit heavy handed and over prescriptive*”. However, having gone through all the current conditions with the Committee you were substantially in agreement apart from condition 15.

Decision on current impairment

36. The Committee considered whether your fitness to practise remains impaired by reason of adverse physical or mental health. In doing so, it exercised its own independent judgement and had regard to the over-arching objectives of the GDC: the protection of the health, safety and well-being of the public; the maintenance of public confidence in the dental profession; and the establishment and maintenance of standards of conduct and performance for the members of the dental profession.

37. The Committee has taken into account all of the written and oral evidence, and the relevant guidance.

38. The Committee is making a fresh assessment of whether your health currently impairs your fitness to practise as a dentist.

39. [PRIVATE].”

40. [PRIVATE].

41. [PRIVATE:].

42. The Committee has seen a number of positive testimonials on your behalf. One of these was from your previous employer who found you to be a reliable and valued member of staff. Others were from support workers from [PRIVATE] and Cumbria Wildlife Trust, these individuals know you from your regular attendance at their organisations.

43. However, whilst the Committee recognises your insight and that you have made on-going progress in managing your health condition, it is not satisfied that the risks to the public have yet been diminished to the extent that you are able to practise dentistry without some form of restriction. It notes that you have not worked in a dental setting since March 2020. [PRIVATE].

44. [PRIVATE]. The Committee therefore considers that there remains a risk of harm to the public should you be allowed to practise without restriction. Further, public confidence in the profession and this regulatory process would be undermined if no finding of impairment were made.

45. Accordingly, having regard to all the evidence, the Committee has concluded that your fitness to practise remains impaired by reason of adverse [PRIVATE] health.

Sanction

46. The Committee next considered what direction, if any, to make. It had regard to the GDC's *Fitness to Practise: Guidance for the practice committees* (January 2026).

47. The Committee has borne in mind the principle of proportionality, balancing the public interest against your own interests. The public interest includes the protection of the public, the maintenance of public confidence in the profession, and declaring and upholding proper standards of conduct and performance within the profession.

48. The Committee first considered whether it would be appropriate to allow the current order to lapse at its expiry or to terminate it with immediate effect. Given its finding of current impairment, the Committee determined that this would not be an appropriate course of action.

49. The Committee next considered whether extending the period of conditional registration would be appropriate in this case. It notes you have accepted you are not fit to practise without some form of restrictions and you agreed in essence with the continuation of conditions of your registration. It noted the GDC has invited the Committee to continue with the same conditions on your registration. The Committee has borne in mind that the matters in this case relate to your health and not in relation to clinical concerns. It was satisfied that the risks to the public could continue to be suitably managed through a continued order of conditions. The Committee was further satisfied that you would continue to comply with conditions in light of your commitment to return to dental practice. It is satisfied that given the insight you have demonstrated into your health condition, conditions would enable you to follow a pathway back into dentistry.

50. Accordingly, the Committee determined to extend the current order of conditions for a further 18 months (subject to one variation which appears below). It was satisfied that this was a proportionate period required to protect the public and in the public interest. The Committee noted you have not worked as a dentist since March 2020. This time would enable to start your CPD and continue with your remediation. The Committee directs a review before the end of this period of 18 months.

51. The Committee made a minor variation to condition 15 concerning the prohibition on you not carrying out any out-of-hours work or on call duties, to allow you to do so in emergencies as long as you are accompanied by your workplace supervisor.

52. The following varied conditions will appear against your name in the register. Conditions which are marked 'PRIVATE' will be redacted from the public version of this determination:

PRIVATE CONDITIONS

1. [PRIVATE]

2. [PRIVATE]

3. [PRIVATE]

PUBLIC CONDITIONS

4. Before commencing employment as a dentist, or providing services for which GDC registration is required, he must undertake a minimum of core CPD training in accordance with the GDC's CPD requirements.¹²³
5. He must notify the GDC within 7 days of any professional appointment he accepts, and provide the contact details of his employer or any organisation for which he is contracted to provide dental services, and any Commissioning Body on whose Dental Performers List he is included or the Local Health Board if in Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland.
6. He must allow the GDC to exchange information with his employer or any contracting body for which he provides dental services.
7. He must inform the GDC within 7 days of any formal disciplinary or criminal proceedings taken against him from the date this order takes effect.
8. He must inform the GDC within 7 days of any complaints made against him from the date this order takes effect.
9. He must inform the GDC if he applies for dental employment outside the UK.
10. At any time he is providing dental services which require him to be registered with the GDC, he must place himself and remain under the close supervision* of a workplace supervisor** nominated by himself and agreed by the GDC. The workplace supervisor will be in the same category of the register or higher. He must present the workplace supervisor with a copy of this determination within 7 days of accepting a position.
11. He must allow his workplace supervisor to provide reports to the GDC every 3 months, and at least 14 days prior to any review hearing. The workplace supervisor's report should address, but should not be limited to, the following areas:
 - Communication skills with patients and colleagues;
 - Organisational skills;
 - Record-keeping;
 - Attendance and punctuality;
 - Consistency of behaviour;
 - Relationships with patients and colleagues;
 - Confirmation of any complaints received and the outcome;
 - Confirmation of any concerns raised in the workplace about him;
 - Confirmation he is complying with his conditions;
 - Confirmation of any agreed reasonable adjustments; and
 - Any other relevant information.
12. He must not restart work until a workplace supervisor has been approved by the GDC.
13. At any time he is providing dental services which require him to be registered with the GDC, he must always be assisted by a registered dental nurse when working, who is present in the room during patient appointments.
14. He must not engage in single-handed dental practice.
15. He must not:

- a. work as a locum in any contract of less than 6 months' duration; or
 - b. undertake any out-of-hours work or on call duties except for in an emergency, and if so, he must be accompanied by his workplace supervisor.
16. He must work with his workplace supervisor or a development adviser*** to formulate a Personal Professional Development Plan****.
17. He must forward a copy of his Personal Professional Development Plan to the GDC within 2 months of the date upon which a workplace supervisor or a development adviser is appointed and the Personal Professional Development Plan agreed.
18. He must meet with his workplace supervisor or development adviser on a regular basis to discuss his progress towards achieving the aims set out in his Personal Professional Development Plan. The frequency of his meetings is to be set by his workplace supervisor.
19. He must allow the GDC to exchange information about the standard of his professional performance and his progress towards achieving the aims set out in his Personal Professional Development Plan with his workplace supervisor or development adviser and any other person involved in his retraining and supervision.
20. He must inform within 7 days the following parties that his registration is subject to the conditions listed at (1) to (19) above:
- a. Any organisation or person employing or contracting with him to undertake dental work (before the work is undertaken)
 - b. Any prospective employer (at the time of application)
 - c. The Commissioning Body or Health Board in whose Dental Performers List he is included, or seeking inclusion (at the time of application)
21. He must permit the GDC to disclose the above conditions (4) to (20) to any person requesting information about his registration status.

1 [Education and CPD](#)

2 [Enhanced CPD scheme 2018](#)

3 [Recommended CPD topics](#)

***Close supervision**

The registrant's day-to-day work must be supervised by a person who is registered with the GDC in their category of the register or above and who must be on site and available at all times. As a minimum, the registrant's work must be reviewed at least twice a week by the supervisor via one-to-one meetings and case-based discussion. These bi-weekly meetings must be focused on all areas of concern identified by the conditions/undertakings. These meetings must take place face to face.

**** Workplace supervisor**

A workplace supervisor will oversee the registrant's day-to-day clinical work. Workplace supervisors review the clinical practice of the registrant throughout the period of supervision and provide feedback to the GDC. Postgraduate dental deans or their nominated deputies do not appoint, identify, or manage workplace supervisors.

The workplace supervisor must agree to provide reports to the GDC at the intervals specified in the registrant's conditions or undertakings. The reports should include information about:

- The registrant's clinical performance.
- One-to-one meetings and case-based discussions.
- The registrant's progress towards remediation.
- Any concerns regarding the registrant, their practice, or their progress towards remediation (where applicable).
- Any specific areas of concern listed in the conditions.

***** Development Adviser**

A development adviser supports a registrant with conditions or undertakings to develop and update a Personal Professional Development Plan (PPDP). They also support, guide, and monitor the registrant to meet the areas of concern identified in conditions or undertakings. The development adviser will help the registrant to draw up their PPDP, monitor progress against the PPDP, and review any written evidence specified in the PPDP. They will provide the GDC, or other relevant bodies, with reports on the registrant's progress at times specified under the conditions/undertakings or upon request. Development advisers do not supervise the registrant's clinical practice.

Registrants must nominate a development adviser for approval by the GDC. Persons agreeing to undertake this role are likely to charge the registrant a fee.

******Personal Professional Development Plan (PPDP)**

A PPDP is a plan for the registrant's continued professional and/or personal development over a set period. For registrants with conditions or undertakings, it is the starting point for remediation and/or retraining in a particular area or areas of practice.

The PPDP can cover any area of the GDC's Standards for the Dental Team, but it must set out an action plan to address the area or areas of concern, any measures to take, and the completion date.

The development adviser (in England) or educational supervisor can advise the registrant about preparing a PPDP, but it is the registrant's responsibility to prepare and complete it.

53. Unless you exercise your right of appeal, the conditions of practice order will be varied and extended by a period of 18 months, 28 days from the date that notice of this direction is deemed to have been served upon you. In the event that you do exercise your right of appeal, the conditions of practice order currently in place on your registration will remain in force until the resolution of the appeal.

54. That concludes this determination.