

## PRIVATE HEARING

### Health Committee Review Hearing

14 November 2025

**Name:** SHIRIN, Esther

**Registration number:** 66954

**Case number:** CAS-193175

---

**General Dental Council:** James Halliday, Counsel  
Instructed by Lowri Hopkins, IHLPS

**Registrant:** Present  
Represented by Tom Day, Counsel  
Instructed by Saima Haq, Weightmans LLP

---

**Fitness to practise:** Impaired by reason of health

**Outcome:** Conditions extended and varied (with a review)

**Duration:** 12 Months

---

**Committee members:** Michael Speakman (Chair, Dentist Member)  
Caroline Healy (Lay Member)  
Stephanie Carter (Dental Care Professional Member)

**Legal Adviser:** Julian Weinberg

**Committee Secretary:** Lola Bird

**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.**

Dr Shirin,

1. This is a resumed hearing before the Health Committee pursuant to section 27C(2) of the *Dentists Act 1984 (as amended)* ('the Act').
2. The hearing is being conducted remotely by Microsoft Teams.
3. You are represented at these proceedings by Mr Tom Day, Counsel. The Case Presenter for the General Dental Council (GDC) is Mr James Halliday, Counsel.
4. The purpose of today's hearing has been to review a substantive conditions of practice order that is currently in place on your registration.

#### **Decision on application to hold the hearing in private**

5. At the outset, the Committee determined a joint application to hold the entire hearing in private, under Rule 53(2)(a) of the *GDC (Fitness to Practise) Rules 2006*.
6. Mr Halliday submitted that the matters to be considered relate to your health, and that in the circumstances, it would be appropriate to encroach on the principle of open justice and hold the whole hearing in private. Mr Day submitted that he agreed entirely with the proposed course of action.
7. Having heard from both parties and having accepted the advice of the Legal Adviser in relation to its discretion under Rule 53 to hold part or all of a hearing in private, the Committee acceded to the application. Given that this case relates solely to the matter of your health, the Committee considered that holding the hearing entirely in private was appropriate for the protection of your private and family life.
8. The Committee has produced both a private and a suitably redacted public version of its determination.

#### **Case background**

9. Your case was first considered by the Health Committee (HC) in November 2023, when it considered allegations about your fitness to practise. You were not present at that first hearing and you were not represented in your absence.
10. Following a factual inquiry, the initial HC found proved that you had one or more adverse health conditions, [PRIVATE].
11. The initial HC went on to determine that your fitness to practise was impaired by reason of your adverse health on both public protection and wider public interest grounds. [PRIVATE].

12. The HC in November 2023 determined to suspend your registration for a period of 12 months, with a review hearing to take place prior to the end of that period of suspended registration. The Committee also made recommendations as to the information and evidence that you may wish to provide to a future reviewing Committee. [PRIVATE].

#### **First resumed hearing – November 2024**

13. At a hearing held in November 2024, the HC reviewed the suspension order that was imposed on your registration. You attended that hearing and were legally represented.

14. [PRIVATE].

15. [PRIVATE]

16. The Committee in 2024 determined that your fitness to practise remained impaired by reason of your adverse health. [PRIVATE].

17. Accordingly, that Committee determined that a finding of impairment was necessary for the protection of the public. It also considered that ... “*a declaration of impairment continues to be required in the wider public interest ...*”

18. The Committee in 2024, having noted [PRIVATE], determined that conditions could adequately protect the public and the wider public interest. It therefore terminated the suspension order that was in place on your registration and replaced it with an interim conditions of practice order for a period of 12 months.

19. The conditions imposed included reporting requirements for the exchange of certain information with the GDC, as well as [PRIVATE].

20. The Committee in 2024 directed a review of the conditions of practice order shortly before the expiry of the 12 month period.

#### **Today’s resumed hearing**

21. In comprehensively reviewing the existing order today, the Committee considered all the evidence placed before. [PRIVATE].

22. [PRIVATE].

23. The Committee took account of the submissions made by Mr Halliday on behalf of the GDC and the submissions made by Mr Day on your behalf.

24. [PRIVATE].

25. Mr Halliday submitted that your fitness to practise remains impaired. [PRIVATE].

26. Mr Halliday provided the Committee with a set of varied draft conditions proposed by the GDC, [PRIVATE]. Mr Halliday invited the Committee to impose the proposed varied conditions for a period of 12 months, with a review.

27. Mr Day submitted that you agreed with the position of the GDC and the proposed varied conditions.

28. [PRIVATE].

29. [PRIVATE]. It was Mr Day's submission that the varied conditions, as proposed, are perfectly reasonable and all that is necessary to safeguard the public and the wider public interest.

30. [PRIVATE].

### **The Committee's decisions**

31. In reaching its decisions, the Committee accepted the advice of the Legal Adviser in relation to its powers under section 27(C)(2) of the Act, the relevant legal principles to be applied and the approach it should take in conducting its review.

### **Decision on current impairment**

32. The Committee first considered whether your fitness to practise remains impaired by reason of adverse health. In doing so, it had regard to the overarching 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.

33. [PRIVATE].

34. [PRIVATE].

35. [PRIVATE]. It was the conclusion of the Committee, having considered all the evidence, that there would remain a risk to patients if you were to be allowed to return to unrestricted practice at this time. Accordingly, a finding of current impairment is necessary for the protection of the public.

36. The Committee also had regard to the wider public interest and was satisfied that public confidence in the dental profession would be undermined if a finding of current impairment were not made in the circumstances of this case.

37. The Committee therefore determined that your fitness to practise remains impaired by reason of adverse health.

### **Decision on what action to take in relation to your registration**

38. The Committee next considered what action to take in relation to your registration. It had regard to section 27C(2) of the Act, which sets out the options available to it at this review. It bore in

mind that the purpose of any action taken is not to be punitive, but to protect the public and the wider public interest. The Committee had regard to the GDC's 'Guidance for the Practice Committees including Indicative Sanctions Guidance' (October 2016; last revised in December 2020) ('the Guidance'). It applied the principle of proportionality, balancing the public interest with your own interests.

39. [PRIVATE]. The Committee considered that it would be inappropriate to terminate the current order or to allow it to lapse.

40. The Committee next considered whether it should extend the current conditions of practice on your registration, with the variations agreed by both parties. [PRIVATE].

41. The Committee therefore directs that the current conditions of practice order should be varied as proposed and should continue for a period of 12 months. It was satisfied that a period of 12 months is reasonable and proportionate in all the circumstances to enable you to further address your health issues such that you may return to unrestricted practice at the end of this period.

42. Conditions 1 to 5 and 12 to 18 are public conditions and will appear against your name in the Dentists Register. Conditions 6 to 11 are private conditions and will remain confidential:

#### PUBLIC CONDITIONS

1. You must notify the GDC within 7 days of any post you accept and of the commissioning body on whose dental performer's list you are included.
2. You must provide full contact details of your employer to the GDC within 7 days and allow the GDC to exchange information with your employer or any contracting body for which you provide dental services.
3. You must inform the GDC within 7 days of any formal or informal disciplinary proceedings taken against you, from the date of this determination.
4. You must inform the GDC within 7 days of any complaints made against you from the date of this determination.
5. You must inform the GDC within 7 days from the date of application if you apply for dental employment outside the UK.

#### PRIVATE CONDITIONS

6. [PRIVATE].

7. [PRIVATE].

8. [PRIVATE].

9. [PRIVATE].

10. [PRIVATE].

11. [PRIVATE].

#### PUBLIC CONDITIONS

12. You shall not engage in single-handed dental practice and shall only work at premises where there is another GDC registrant who is a dentist and is working at the same time as you are working.
  13. You must not work as a locum for posts of less than three months' duration or undertake any out-of-hours work or-on call duties outside of your substantive position.
  14. At any time you are providing dental services, which require you to be registered with the GDC, you must agree to the appointment of a reporter nominated by you and approved by the GDC. The reporter shall be in the same category of the register as, or higher than, you.
  15. You must allow the reporter to provide reports to the GDC at intervals of not more than 3 months and 14 days prior to any review hearing. The reports should address the following:
    - Whether there have been any concerns/complaints raised about you;
    - Your general compliance with your conditions.
  16. You must keep your professional commitments under review and limit your dental practice in accordance with medical advice; you must stop working immediately if advised to do so.
  17. You must inform the GDC that you have been advised to stop working within 7 days of being advised to cease.
  18. You must inform within 1 week the following parties that your registration is subject to the conditions, listed at (1- 5) and (12 -17) above, and provide evidence of this to the GDC
    - a. any organisation or person employing or contracting with you to undertake dental work;
    - b. any prospective employer (at the time of application);
    - c. The Principal Dentist and the Practice Manager at your place of work; and,
    - d. any Commissioning Body in whose Dental Performers List you are included or seeking inclusion (at the time of application).
  19. You must permit the GDC to disclose the above conditions, (1-5) and (12 - 18), to any person requesting information about your registration status.
43. The Committee directs a review of this order at a further resumed hearing to be held shortly before the expiry of the 12 month period. The Committee at that hearing will decide what action to take in relation to your registration at that time. You will be informed of the date and time of that resumed hearing.

44. Unless you exercise your right of appeal, your registration will be made subject to the above varied conditions, 28 days from the date that notice is deemed to have been served upon you. In the event that you do appeal this decision, the conditions of practice order currently in place on your registration will remain in force until the resolution of the appeal.

45. That concludes this determination.