

PUBLIC HEARING
Registration Appeals Committee
(Registration Appeal Hearing)

24 November 2025

Name: GARIGA-JACKIEWICZ, Monika

Registrant number: 294067

Case number: CAS-212011-Q0M3H3

General Dental Council: Ms Lauren Fullerton, Counsel
Instructed by Mr Jack Chaffey, IHLPS

Registrant: Present, unrepresented

Outcome: Appeal dismissed

Committee members: Marnie Hayward (Chair, Dental Care Professional Member)
Robin Barber (Dentist Member)
Aleena Choudhry (Lay Member)

Professional Adviser Malcolm Smith

Legal adviser: Alastair McFarlane

Committee Secretary: Jenny Hazell

Mrs Gariga-Jackiewicz,

1. This is a hearing before the Registration Appeals Committee. The hearing is being conducted remotely by Microsoft Teams video-link.
2. The hearing is being held in accordance with the terms of the General Dental Council (Registration Appeals) Rules Order of Council 2006, pursuant to section 36J and Schedule 4A of the Dentists Act 1984 (as amended) (the Act).
3. The purpose of this hearing has been for the Committee to consider your appeal against the decision of the Registrar of the General Dental Council (GDC), to refuse your application for registration in the Dental Care Professionals Register as a dental hygienist under Matter C (namely whether you have satisfied the Council that you have the requisite knowledge and skill to practise as a member of the profession or class to which the title applies).
4. You are present and are representing yourself at these proceedings. Ms Fullerton, Counsel, appears on behalf of the GDC.

Legal framework and background to the appeal

5. The Committee had regard to the legal framework and factual background to this appeal, as set out in the GDC's written case summary dated 28 October 2025.
6. You submitted an application for registration as a dental care professional (DCP) under the title of dental hygienist on 8 April 2024. You rely on your Diploma in Public Health, majoring in Dental Hygiene obtained in 2014 from Warsaw, Poland.

First Panel assessment of application and decision

7. Three assessors formed a Registration Assessment Panel on 15 August 2024 and conducted an assessment of your application. The First Panel recommended that you be refused registration under the title of dental hygienist. This was because the evidence provided did not demonstrate that you possessed the requisite knowledge and skill to be eligible for registration as a dental hygienist (matter C). The Panel identified 14 learning outcomes that had not been met.
8. The Registrar relied on Panel A's recommendation and decided to refuse your application for registration as a dental hygienist. You were notified of this decision on 23 August 2024. The letter advised you that you were not eligible for registration as a dental hygienist as you had not satisfied the Registrar that you had the requisite knowledge and skill. The letter advised that if you had new or additional information to address the deficiencies, it would be considered by the Registrar.
9. You provided the GDC with further information between 24 September 2024 and 15 April 2025.

Re-assessment of application and decision

10. Three assessors formed a Registration Assessment Panel (Panel A) on 19 June 2024 and was tasked with carrying out a re-assessment of your application. Owing to an administrative error your application was simultaneously referred to a second Registration Assessment Panel (Panel B). Unaware that the matter had been allocated to Panel B in error, Panel B began to re-assess the application. One of the members of Panel B requested clarification about your work history. Shortly thereafter the administrative error was identified and therefore Panel B was informed that they were not required to re-assess your application.

11. Pursuant to the request made by the Panel B member, in April 2025 the GDC emailed you for more details about the gap in your employment between June 2015 and February 2020 and further details of your practise in October and November 2024.

12. On 14 April 2025 GT (a professional referee) emailed the GDC providing further information about your duties. On 15 April 2025 the GDC sent you an email to confirm that the clarification from GT had been received by email and would be placed before the Panel as part of that assessment. Regrettably the clarification emails from you and from GT were not placed before Panel A.

13. Panel A proceeded to consider the updated application, save for the exception of the documents referred to above. Panel A did not consider that you had demonstrated the requisite knowledge and skill (matter C) to be eligible for registration as a dental hygienist. It therefore did not recommend your entry onto the register.

14. The Registrar relied on Panel A's recommendation and decided to refuse your application for registration as a dental hygienist. You were notified of this decision on 27 June 2024. The letter set out the 14 learning outcomes that had not been met. The letter also advised you of your right of appeal against the decision.

15. Between 11 July 2025 and 12 August 2025 there was various correspondence between you and the GDC in support of your application.

Notice of appeal

16. On 11 July 2025 you submitted your Notice of Appeal (NOA) to the GDC in which you contended that the deficient outcomes are met by the application. You also stated that you wished to submit further material addressing the deficiencies.

17. The GDC provided Panel A with the further two further clarification emails provided by you which had not been placed before that Panel. The GDC sought clarification from Panel A about any impact this information might have on their decision. Panel A did not find that this material would change the outcome of their decision.

18. On 12 August 2025 you were notified by email of the error and the subsequent actions to address the issue.

The Registrar's position

19. The Registrar's position, as set out in its written submissions dated 28 October 2025, is that two separate panels assessed your qualification and the information you provided initially and thereafter in respect of your application. Its position is that based on the recommendation of Panel A that you are not eligible for registration as a dental hygienist as you have not demonstrated to the GDC that you possess the requisite knowledge and skill under section 36C(4) of the Act.

20. The Registrar further sets out that should the Committee be minded to allow the appeal, the Registrar will still need to be satisfied on other matters, relating to your identity, that you have the necessary knowledge of English, that you are of good character and you are in good health.

21. The burden rests on you to satisfy the Committee that you have the requisite knowledge and skills required for registration under section 36C(4) of the Act.

Your position

22. You gave oral evidence before the Committee in which you maintain that you do have the requisite knowledge and skills for registration as a dental hygienist. You rely on your experience gained as a dental hygienist working in Poland between September 2014 to June 2015 as well as your more recent experience, also as a dental hygienist working in Poland in October to November 2024. You also rely on the reference from GT (your former employer in Poland).

23. In answer to questions from the Professional Adviser and the Committee, you set out the background to your experience as a dental hygienist working in Poland in 2014-2015. During that time you were working full time, five days a week where you would see around 5-6 patients a day. You also worked as a dental hygienist working in Poland between October – November 2024, during which time you worked 6 hours a day, five days a week, seeing 26 patients in that time. You explained that some of this clinical work was akin to that of a dental hygienist working in the United Kingdom such as performing routine cleaning and teeth polishing procedures and educating patients on oral care needs. However, in your evidence you accepted that you had not had any training in or experience of carrying out the administration of local anaesthetic or any practical experience of working on phantom heads.

The Committee's decision on your appeal

24. The Committee took account of the submissions made by Ms Fullerton on behalf of the GDC, as well as your oral evidence. It accepted the advice of the independent Professional Adviser and that of the independent Legal Adviser.

25. The Committee bore in mind that the burden is on you to satisfy it that you have the requisite knowledge and skill required by Section 36C(4) of the 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 would be a safe and competent practitioner under either title.

26. The Committee has borne in mind that although you have had clinical experience as a dental hygienist in Poland, the first period dates back to nine months' experience in 2014, which is over 10 years ago. The more recent period, dated October to November 2024, also in Poland, is a relatively short period of time during which, by your own evidence, you only saw 26 patients. In the Committee's judgement, this low number of patient contact is not sufficient to demonstrate that you have addressed the 14 learning outcomes that were deemed to be deficient by the Assessment Panels.

27. The Committee considers that the reference provided by CT is fairly generic in nature and does not address in sufficient detail the 14 learning outcomes that were deemed to be deficient by the Assessment Panels. The Committee has therefore given limited weight to this evidence of clinical experience.

28. The Committee considered that it would be helped if it had received a log setting out the number of patients you had seen, the type of issues you had been dealing with and any complications you dealt with.

29. In addition, the Committee had concerns about your level of understanding in relation to the link between oral health and general health and of patient group directives, which are fundamental to the role of a dental hygienist. Further, you have not had training in or experience of administering local anaesthetic.

30. Overall, the Committee was concerned about your knowledge and skill in light of the limited answers that you gave in your evidence.

31. The Committee has borne in mind that you have undertaken some CPD in support of your application, most of which was completed in 2024. However, in the Committee's view, there is insufficient clinical and/or practical experience to demonstrate that you have addressed the deficiencies as identified in the learning outcomes relevant to the role of a dental hygienist.

32. Taking all these factors into account, the Committee is not satisfied that you have met the learning outcomes relevant to the role of a dental hygienist, which were identified as deficient by Panel A. Accordingly, the Committee has concluded that you have not demonstrated that you have the requisite knowledge and skill to be registered under the title of dental hygienist in accordance with Section 36C(4) of the Act (matter C).

33. The Committee therefore determined to refuse your appeal. The Committee recognises the difficult situation you find yourself in. It suggests that you may wish to contact your local Postgraduate Dental Dean for further advice on how you might be able to progress your career.

34. That concludes this determination.