

PUBLIC HEARING**Registration Appeals Committee
(Registration Appeal Hearing)****5 December 2025****Name:** MARQUES DA SILVA CASTRO, Mariana**Case number:** CAS-212150-C4Q7B4

General Dental Council: Christopher Hamlet, Counsel
Instructed by Ela Rexhaj, ILAS**Appellant:** Present
Unrepresented

Outcome: Appeal allowed in respect of Matter C
Remitted back to the Registrar in respect of Matter D

Committee members: Gill Mullen (Chair, Lay Member)
Caitriona Gerber Walsh (Dentist Member)
Emma Haywood (Dental Care Professional Member)**Professional Adviser:** Malcolm Smith**Legal Adviser:** Jayne Wheat**Committee Secretary:** Lola Bird

Ms Marques Da Silva Castro,

1. This is a Registration Appeals Committee hearing. The hearing is being conducted remotely by Microsoft Teams video-link.
2. The purpose of this hearing has been for the Committee to consider your appeal against the decisions of the GDC's Registrar that you are not eligible for registration in the Dental Care Professionals Register ('the DCP Register') as a Dental Therapist and/or Orthodontic Therapist.
3. You are representing yourself at these proceedings. Mr Christopher Hamlet, Counsel, appears on behalf of the Registrar.

Legal framework and background

4. The Committee had regard to the legal framework and factual background to this appeal, as set out in the written case summary provided by the GDC dated 20 November 2025, and as outlined by Mr Hamlet in his opening submissions.
5. On 4 and 5 March 2023, the GDC received from you two applications for registration, one for registration as a Dental Therapist, and the other for registration as an Orthodontic Therapist. In making your applications you relied on your Bachelor of Dental Surgery diploma obtained in Brazil in December 2007.
6. It is noted in the GDC's case summary that there has been a change in the law since 8 March 2023, in relation to how applicants with overseas diplomas in dentistry can join the DCP Register. Prior to 8 March 2023, an applicant who held an overseas diploma in dentistry was able to apply to join the DCP Register. However, since 8 March 2023 applicants can no longer rely on diplomas in dentistry and must now hold a relevant DCP qualification in order to join the DCP Register.
7. As your applications were received by the GDC before 8 March 2023, they were processed in accordance with the legislative framework in place at that time. Therefore, in setting out the law in this case, the GDC has referred to the relevant parts of the Dentists Act that were in force at the time your applications were received.
8. Accordingly, it is noted that your application for registration was made under Section 36C of the Act. At the material time, sections 36C(1) to (2) and (4) to (6) of the Act stated as follows:
 - (1) *Subject to the provisions of this Act, a person shall be entitled to be registered under a particular title in the dental care professionals register if he satisfies the registrar—*
 - (a) *of matter A or C, and*
 - (b) *of matter D.*

- (2) *Matter A is that the person holds a qualification or qualifications approved by the Council under section 36D(2) in relation to the profession, or class of members of a profession, to which the title applies.*
- (4) *Matter C is that the person—*
 - (a) holds a qualification or qualifications granted by an institution or institutions outside the United Kingdom relevant to the profession complementary to dentistry, or class of members of such a profession, to which the title applies (in this section referred to as “relevant qualifications”); and*
 - (b) has satisfied the Council that he has the requisite knowledge and skill to practise as a member of the profession or class to which the title applies.*
- (4A) *Subsection (4)(b) does not apply to a person whose application for registration is made in reliance on a relevant qualification that—*
 - (a) was granted in a relevant European State, and*
 - (b) demonstrates, in the opinion of the Council, a comparable level of knowledge and skill to that demonstrated by a qualification approved (or qualifications together approved) in respect of the same profession or class under section 36D(2).*
- (5) *For the purpose of establishing whether a person has the requisite knowledge and skill for the purposes of subsection (4)(b), the Council—*
 - (a) shall take into account all that person's relevant qualifications, and all relevant knowledge or experience, wherever acquired, and*
 - (b) may determine that a person must perform to the satisfaction of the Council in any test or assessment specified in the determination.*
- (6) *Matter D is—*
 - (a) the person's identity;*
 - (aa) that [they have] the necessary knowledge of English;*
 - (b) that [they are] of good character; and*
 - (c) that [they are] in good health, both physically and mentally.*

9. You made your applications for registration as a Dental Therapist and Orthodontic Therapist under Matters C and D above. However, the only matter under consideration at this appeal is whether you possess the requisite knowledge and skill to be registered as a Dental Therapist and/or Orthodontic Therapist in accordance with Matter C. Your applications have not been fully assessed by the GDC in respect of the Matter D criteria.

Requisite knowledge and skill

10. Under the applicable legal framework, when determining whether an applicant has the requisite knowledge and skill, the GDC is required under section 36C(5)(a) of the Dentists Act to

take into account all the applicant's relevant qualifications, and all relevant knowledge or experience, wherever acquired.

The first assessment panel outcome

11. On 11 February 2025, three assessors formed a Registration Assessment Panel ('the first assessment panel') and considered your applications for registration.

12. Having assessed both applications, the first assessment panel did not recommend your entry onto the DCP Register as a Dental Therapist or as an Orthodontic Therapist. It concluded that your applications did not demonstrate that you possessed the requisite knowledge and skill to be eligible for registration under either title.

13. The Registrar relied on the recommendations of the first assessment panel and the GDC wrote to you by way of separate letters, both dated 20 February 2025, which explained the outcomes of the assessments. The GDC informed you that the reason for the refusal of your applications was that the first assessment panel had identified that a number of learning outcomes, relevant to the practice of a Dental Therapist and an Orthodontic Therapist, had not been covered as part of your training or professional experience. The relevant learning outcomes were set out in detail in the respective letters of 20 February 2025.

14. In summary, the main reasons for the first assessment panel's refusal decisions were that, in relation to the majority of the learning outcomes, you had not provided evidence of relevant Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and a recent professional reference confirming your clinical competency. Evidence of your self-reflection on certain topics was also required.

15. You were advised in the letters of 20 February 2025 that, should you have any new or additional information which would address the deficiencies identified by the first assessment panel, you could submit the additional information to the GDC by 3 April 2025 for reconsideration by the Registrar. You were also advised of your right to appeal the refusal of your applications.

The second assessment panel outcome

16. You did provide additional information to the GDC and on 10 June 2025, your updated applications were assessed by a Registration Assessment Panel ('the second assessment panel').

17. Having assessed your updated applications, the second assessment panel did not recommend your entry onto the DCP Register as a Dental Therapist or as an Orthodontic Therapist. It concluded that the evidence you provided did not demonstrate that you possessed the requisite knowledge and skill to be eligible for registration under either title.

18. The Registrar relied on the recommendations of the second assessment panel in respect of your applications and the GDC wrote to you by way of separate letters, both dated 18 June 2025, which explained the outcomes of the assessments. The GDC informed you that the second assessment panel had identified that there remained a number of learning outcomes, relevant to the

practice of a Dental Therapist and Orthodontic Therapist, that had not been covered as part of your training or professional experience. The relevant learning outcomes were set out in detail in each of the letters dated 18 June 2025, with the main reasons for the refusal largely being the same as set out by the first assessment panel in terms of the type of outstanding evidence required.

19. You were again advised of your right to appeal the Registrar's decisions.

Your appeal

20. On 18 July 2025, the GDC received your separate Notices of Appeal (NOAs) appealing the decisions of the Registrar not to register you as a Dental Therapist and Orthodontic Therapist.

21. The details of your grounds of appeal are before this Committee, but in summary you requested that the Registration Appeals Committee:

- Review your case fairly and individually
- Recognise the quality of your degree, CPD, and references, and
- Consider the inconsistencies in the decision-making process.

Today's appeal hearing

Initial submissions on behalf of the Registrar

22. Mr Hamlet, having outlined the background to this appeal, submitted that there was additional information available today that was not before the second assessment panel. He submitted that the Committee was entitled to take this further evidence into account when reaching its decision.

23. Mr Hamlet highlighted that the additional material included two professional reference letters. The first of those letters, dated 26 September 2025, is from a 'Periodontist, Implantodontist and Oral Rehabilitation Specialist', with whom you worked in Brazil, from January 2008 to December 2017. The second letter, dated 7 November 2025, is from a Specialist Orthodontist, with whom you worked in Brazil from May 2010 to December 2017. You also provided further CPD evidence in relation to learning that you have undertaken in the UK.

24. Mr Hamlet noted that, in addition to the further documentary evidence provided, there was to be oral evidence in respect of your appeal. He stated that in the circumstances he would reserve any further submissions on behalf of the Registrar until after that evidence had been heard.

Oral evidence

25. The Committee heard oral evidence from Witness 1, Dental Hygienist and Therapist, who worked with you at a dental practice in the UK from December 2022 to January 2024, where you practised as a trainee Dental Nurse. Witness 1 had previously provided a letter in support of your applications for registration dated 31 March 2025.

26. Witness 1 spoke very positively about you, in particular in relation to your clinical knowledge and your ability to relate to patients. She told the Committee that she could not fault how you manage patients. Witness 1 also stated that it had been quite clear during her experience working with you that you were upholding the GDC Standards, including putting the interests of patients first. She stated that you were kind, trustworthy and professional at all times.

27. The Committee also heard oral evidence from you at these proceedings. You told the Committee that you were grateful to have the opportunity to demonstrate that your primary dental qualification and your clinical experience, which included working as a dentist for 10 years in Brazil, meet the requirements for registration as a Dental Therapist and Orthodontic Therapist.

28. You emphasised that the university from which you obtained your dental degree is one of the top 15 dental schools in the world. You also spoke about your voluntary internship, which you undertook whilst studying for your degree. You stated that the internship was at a hospital treating cranio-facial anomalies and therefore involved the provision of complex treatment, which you said was mostly orthodontic treatment. You stated that treating patients with such special needs remained your focus throughout your training, but that you also gained experience in periodontology, general orthodontic practice and paediatric dentistry as well as general dentistry.

29. You also referred the Committee to the evidence of your CPD undertaken in the UK, covering learning in the areas including infection control, radiography, medical emergencies and orthodontic and restorative dentistry. In addition, you asked the Committee to take into account the two additional professional references that you provided for consideration at this hearing, which you described as comprehensive. You highlighted that these references set out your clinical competencies, including the specific procedures that you carried out whilst practising in Brazil, which are relevant to the practice of a Dental Therapist and an Orthodontic Therapist.

30. You stated that there is evidence before the Committee of your ongoing professional development and your commitment to safe practice.

31. As part of your oral evidence, you were cross-examined by the GDC on a number of matters, including in relation to the quality and provenance of the two additional professional references provided for this hearing. This issue was raised by the GDC on account of the similar wording in both references. You maintained that the references were authentic and a true representation of your knowledge, skills and experience gained whilst practising in Brazil.

32. You also answered a number of questions from the independent Professional Adviser present at these proceedings, including in relation to your undergraduate training. It was your evidence that your undergraduate training covered all the elements of practice required for practice as a Dental Therapist and an Orthodontic Therapist.

33. You went on to answer a number of questions from the Professional Adviser in relation to your relevant knowledge and experience in relation to each role. This included in relation to the Orthodontic Therapist role, your experience in Brazil, where you said that you were working alongside and to the instruction of the Orthodontic Specialist who has provided you with one of the

professional work references. You also confirmed that you had worked as a dental nurse providing assistance in orthodontic practices in the UK. You outlined the knowledge and experience you had gained from those UK orthodontic practices, including in relation to the use of the Index of Treatment Need (IOTN) .

34. You also outlined your experience in relation to dental therapy, including in relation to your work in Brazil in terms of the non-surgical periodontal treatments you carried out, your knowledge of complications following periodontal surgical procedures, your experience in radiography, administering analgesia, carrying out minimally invasive dental treatment, and your treatment of children with pre-formed metal crowns. You also set out in your answers to questions from the Professional Adviser your awareness of relevant topics such as Direct Access and Patient Group Directives for prescriptions and the impact of poor oral health on patients with certain health issues including cardiac problems and diabetes. You also addressed relevant CPD you had undertaken in the UK, including basic life support and immediate life support training.

35. In answer to a question from the Committee following the questions put to you by the Professional Adviser regarding potential support if your appeal were to be successful. You explained that you were confident, given your clinical practice history, that you could return to practise safely and competently in the fields of dental therapy and orthodontic therapy.

Closing submissions made by the parties

36. Following your oral evidence, the Committee heard closing submissions from both parties.

37. Mr Hamlet stated that the position of the Registrar was largely as set out in the GDC's written case summary provided for this hearing. Mr Hamlet stated that this was essentially a position of neutrality, leaving the decision on your appeal as a matter for the Committee to decide.

38. Mr Hamlet reminded the Committee that the function of this Committee was not to simply review the decision of the second appeal panel, but to consider your applications afresh based on all the evidence presented to it today, which included the evidence considered previously. Mr Hamlet also asked the Committee to take into account that the burden is on you at this appeal, to satisfy the Committee that you have the requisite knowledge and skill for registration as a Dental Therapist and/or Orthodontic Therapist.

39. Mr Hamlet stated that he did wish to make an observation about the quality and provenance of the two additional professional references and asked the Committee to take into account the issues he raised in cross-examination. He submitted that if the Committee was satisfied that the professional references are bona fide, it must consider if they attest to your recent clinical competency. Mr Hamlet emphasised that a decision could not be made at this hearing to register you with conditions or any requirement for supervision. He submitted that the Committee must be satisfied that you can competently practise under one or both titles as of today.

40. Mr Hamlet further reminded the Committee that your applications for registration have not been assessed in relation to the Matter D criteria. He therefore submitted that should the Committee

allow your appeal, which is respect of Matter C only, it should remit your case back to the Registrar, in respect of the outstanding requirements under Matter D.

41. You submitted that you understood the need for the GDC to carefully evaluate applications for registration in the best interest of patients. You said that you have experience working to the appropriate standards in clinical practice and that you will continue doing so. You stated that you never had any complaints whilst working in Brazil or in the UK.

42. You asked the Committee to take into account that you have a strong foundation on account of your primary dental qualification from a top dental school, as well as from your considerable clinical experience.

43. You submitted that today's decision is very important to you and that since you arrived in the UK it has been your ambition to resume practice as a clinician. You reiterated your thanks to the Committee for hearing from you as a professional and as a person.

The Committee's decision on your appeal

44. The Committee considered all the evidence presented to it, both documentary and oral. It noted that it had before it evidence that was not before the second assessment panel, namely the two additional professional references, the further evidence of CPD, the oral evidence given by Witness 1 and your oral evidence.

45. The Committee took account of the closing submissions made by Mr Hamlet and your closing submissions. It accepted the advice of the independent Professional Adviser who highlighted key pieces of evidence that the Committee may wish to take into account, along with all the other material before it. The Committee also accepted the advice of the Legal Adviser present at these proceedings regarding the relevant statutory framework, the function of this Committee, and the need to evaluate all the evidence that has been presented.

46. 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 Therapist and/or Orthodontic Therapist. The Committee also remained mindful of the overarching statutory objective of the GDC and its task in assessing whether you would be a safe and competent practitioner under either of the relevant titles.

47. It was the view of the Committee that there was a considerable amount of information before it today in relation to your knowledge and skills as a practitioner. With particular regard to the two titles being considered at this appeal, namely Dental Therapist and Orthodontic Therapist, the Committee had regard to the evidence of your extensive experience working in Brazil in relevant areas of practice.

48. In considering your practice in Brazil, the Committee noted the questions raised by the GDC in relation to the quality and provenance of the two additional professional references you provided for this hearing which relate to your time working in Brazil. The Committee took into account that the

authors of those references are busy professionals, working in a different country and in a language other than English. The Committee considered that it was more important to note that both individuals were happy to put their names to professional references attesting to your knowledge, competency and skills, as opposed to the similarity in wording. The Committee was satisfied that the wording used in what are comprehensive and detailed documents was due to collaboration and not any form of collusion. Therefore, the Committee was content to accept them as genuine and accurate.

49. In relation to your oral evidence, the Committee found you to be credible and honest in the answers you gave. It considered that you show good insight and knowledge in relation to the practice of a Dental Therapist and an Orthodontic Therapist. Whilst the Committee noted that you have not practised clinically in these fields since 2017, it took into account the history of your 10-year experience practising as a dentist in Brazil, as well as your training during your degree and during your voluntary internship. It was the view of the Committee that such experience is embedded.

50. The Committee further took into account that you have taken every opportunity whilst in the UK to remain working in dentistry, which has included you providing chairside assistance to general dental practitioners, specialist orthodontists and dental hygienists and therapists. The Committee noted that Witness 1 has direct experience of working with you and she provided very positive evidence about your knowledge and skill and your manner with patients. The Committee was reassured by her confidence in your ability, and her evidence of you upholding and working to the GDC Standards.

51. The Committee was also reassured by your confidence in your own ability, as you stated in your oral evidence. It noted that you have undertaken a significant amount of CPD in relevant areas and that you have provided your self-reflections on your learning. The Committee was satisfied that you would be a safe and competent clinician if permitted to practice under either of the titles specified in this appeal.

52. It was the conclusion of the Committee, having taken all the evidence into account, that you have demonstrated the requisite knowledge and skill for registration as both a Dental Therapist and an Orthodontic Therapist under section 36C(4) of the Dentists Act (Matter C).

53. Accordingly, the Committee determined to allow your appeal.

Remittal back to the Registrar in relation to Matter D only

54. The only matters for consideration at this appeal were in relation to your knowledge and skill for registration as a Dental Therapist and Orthodontic Therapist. The Committee has determined that you do have the requisite knowledge and skill to be registered under both titles and has determined to grant your appeal on this basis.

55. However, as explained during the course of these proceedings, there remain the outstanding requirements for registration under Matter D which, the Committee understands, have not have been fully assessed by the GDC's Registrations Department. These are the requirements relating to your

identity, whether you have the necessary knowledge of English, are of good character and are of good health.

56. In the circumstances, the Committee remits your case to the Registrar to dispose of in accordance with its direction that:

You are entitled to be entered onto the DCP Register as a Dental Therapist and as an Orthodontic Therapist subject to the GDC having assessed you as suitable for registration under Matter D.

57. That concludes this determination.