

ON PAPERS**Registration Appeals Committee
(CPD Appeal)****23 April 2026****Name:** PEREZ FERNANDEZ, Vanessa Catalina**Registration number:** 298704**Case number:** CAS-214013-N4J0K1

General Dental Council: Megan Wolliner, ILAS**Registrant:** Unrepresented

Outcome: Appeal dismissed

Committee members: Harpreet Ark (Chair, Dentist member)
Clive Powell (Lay member)
Jodie Mahoney (DCP member)**Legal adviser:** Jenny Appleton**Committee Secretary:** Sarah Crewe

1. This was an appeal meeting before the Registration Appeals Committee (RAC). The meeting was conducted remotely on Microsoft Teams.
2. The appeal was against the decision of the Registrar of the General Dental Council (the Council) to erase Mrs Perez Fernandez from the Register for apparent non-compliance with the statutory Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirements. The hearing was held in accordance with the terms of the General Dental Council (Registration Appeals) Rules Order of Council 2006 ('the Registration Appeal Rules'), pursuant to Schedule 4A of the Dentists Act 1984 (as amended) ('the Act').
3. Neither party was present at today's meeting. The Committee first considered the issues of service and whether to proceed with the meeting on the papers in the absence of Mrs Perez Fernandez and any representatives for either party. The Committee accepted the advice of the Legal Adviser on both of these matters.

Decision to conduct the appeal in the absence of Mrs Perez Fernandez and on the papers

4. Notification of this appeal was sent to Mrs Perez Fernandez by Recorded Delivery and secure email on 19 March 2026 in accordance with Rule 5 of the Registration Appeal Rules.
5. The Committee noted that conducting the appeal on the papers is the default position of the GDC unless an appellant requests an oral hearing. It took into account that the GDC's acknowledgement of Mrs Perez Fernandez's appeal, dated 16 December 2025, informed Mrs Perez Fernandez that she could request an oral hearing within 28 days of the date of the letter. Having considered the documents provided, the Committee was satisfied that Mrs Perez Fernandez had made no such request.
6. In the circumstances, the Committee was satisfied that it was appropriate to consider today's appeal in the absence of either party and on the papers.

Decision and reasons on the appeal

Background

7. The General Dental Council (Continuing Professional Development) (Dentists and Dental Care Professionals) Rules 2017 ('the CPD Rules') set out the CPD requirements placed on DCP registrants as of 1 August 2018, and the steps that the GDC shall take in respect of registrants' compliance and non-compliance with those requirements.
8. The CPD Rules came into force on the 1 January 2018 and took effect in respect of dental care professionals on 1 August 2018.
9. In accordance with Rule 1, a 'CPD cycle' means, in respect of a dental care professional, a period of five years beginning on 1 August following the date the dental care professional is first registered and each subsequent period of five years. A 'CPD year' means, in respect of a dental care professional, a period of 12 months beginning on 1 August in any calendar year.
10. Mrs Perez Fernandez appealed against the Registrar's decision that her CPD is non-compliant because she failed to provide a CPD record demonstrating that she has completed the minimum requirement (of 10 hours of verifiable CPD) for the period 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2025, in accordance with Rule 2. Mrs Perez Fernandez also did not provide a copy of her Personal Development Plan and Activity Log for that period

Summary

11. The GDC's case in support of its decision was summarised as follows:

Mrs Perez Fernandez first registered with the General Dental Council ("the Council") as a dental care professional, with the titles Dental Nurse and Dental Therapist, on 16 December 2021. Therefore, Mrs Perez Fernandez's current CPD cycle began on 1 August 2022 and will end on 31 July 2027.

On 22 May 2025, the Council sent an email reminder to Mrs Perez Fernandez's registered email address. This reminder notified Mrs Perez Fernandez that her 2024-2025 CPD year was coming to an end and reminded her that she was required to submit her CPD statement, detailing how many CPD hours she had completed during that year, by 28 August 2025. Mrs Perez Fernandez was advised that if she did not submit a compliant statement before the deadline, her registration may be put at risk.

On 10 June 2025, the Council sent Mrs Perez Fernandez an Annual Renewal Notice letter by post to her registered address. The Annual Renewal Notice is designed to remind registrants that their registration with the Council is due for renewal, of the need to pay their annual retention fee and make their indemnity declaration and of the need to make their CPD statement. Mrs Perez Fernandez was also reminded in this notice that she was required to submit her CPD statement by 28 August 2025. It was stated that Mrs Perez Fernandez would need to have completed at least 10 hours of CPD for every two consecutive CPD years of her registration to ensure that she is compliant with her CPD requirements.

On 12 June 2025, the Council sent an email reminder to Mrs Perez Fernandez's registered email address. The reminder notified Mrs Perez Fernandez that her CPD year was coming to an end. Additionally, that she was required to complete a minimum of 10 hours of CPD during each period of two consecutive years. The reminder stated that she was required to submit her CPD statement by 28 August 2025, and failure to do so may put her registration at risk.

On 7 July 2025, the Council sent an email to Mrs Perez Fernandez in which she was reminded that her Annual Renewal was due on or before 31 July 2025. It was noted that the Council was yet to receive her Annual Retention Fee or her indemnity declaration. Additionally, that she was required to complete a minimum of 10 hours of CPD during each period of two consecutive years. Mrs Perez Fernandez was reminded within this email to make her indemnity declaration by 31 July 2025 and of the need to complete her CPD statement by 28 August 2025.

On 18 July 2025 and 5 August 2025 the Council sent email reminders to Mrs Perez Fernandez's registered email address. This reminder notified Mrs Perez Fernandez that her CPD year was coming to an end. The reminders stated that she was required to submit her CPD statement by 28 August 2025. Additionally, that she was required to complete a minimum of 10 hours of CPD during each period of two consecutive years. Mrs Perez Fernandez was notified that if she failed to submit a compliant CPD statement by this date, her registration may be put at risk.

Between 12 August 2025 and 28 August 2025, the Council sent three SMS reminders regarding the CPD statement to Mrs Perez Fernandez's registered mobile number.

On 25 September 2025, the Council sent a notice under Rule 6 to Mrs Perez Fernandez by recorded delivery to her registered address. The notice stated that, although Mrs Perez Fernandez had submitted a CPD statement to the Council, she had not declared enough hours to meet the requirement to complete a minimum of 10 hours of CPD over two consecutive years. It was noted that she had submitted an annual CPD statement of 4 verifiable hours for the 2023-2024 CPD year and an annual CPD statement of 0 verifiable

hours for the 2024-2025 CPD year. The notice stated that if Mrs Perez Fernandez wished to retain her registration, she should submit her CPD record to the Registrar by 23 October 2025 in order to demonstrate that she had met the requirement. Mrs Perez Fernandez was informed that if the Council did not receive a response to the notice or if her response was unsatisfactory, she may be erased from the dental care professionals register. Mrs Perez Fernandez was also asked to inform the Council if there were any reasons or exceptional circumstances that had meant she was unable to submit a compliant statement for the relevant period.

On 26 September 2025, a copy of the notice was also sent via email to Mrs Perez Fernandez's registered email address.

On 28 October 2025, the Council received a Webform enquiry from Mrs Perez Fernandez. Mrs Perez Fernandez informed the Council that, "I am writing in response to the letter I received requesting that I amend my logged CPD for the 2024-2025 period before 23 October 2025. Unfortunately, due to personal circumstances, I was unable to make the required amendments by the stated deadline. I am in the process of updating my CPD record today and will be submitting the necessary evidence accordingly if you need it. I kindly request that you take this into consideration and allowed my updated CPD submission to be accepted despite the delay".

On 28 October 2025, the Council emailed Mrs Perez Fernandez notifying her that her query had been forwarded to the Registration Operations Team. On 29 October 2025, the Council emailed Mrs Perez Fernandez notifying her that the deadline to submit her CPD evidence had ended and to await further correspondence outlining the next steps.

On 5 November 2025, the Council sent a Rule 8 notice to Mrs Perez Fernandez's registered address by recorded delivery. This notice confirmed that Mrs Perez Fernandez had failed to provide a compliant CPD record demonstrating that she had met the minimum requirement for the period 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2025. Mrs Perez Fernandez had not provided any evidence of her CPD record, nor any evidence of exceptional personal circumstances which may have prevented her from completing her CPD as required. As a result, the Registrar had made the decision to remove her name from the dental care professionals register for non-compliance with the Rules. Mrs Perez Fernandez was notified that unless an appeal was submitted, the Registrar's decision would take effect on 5 December 2025.

On 6 November 2025, a copy of the notice was sent via email to Mrs Perez Fernandez's registered email address.

On 3 December 2025, the Council received an email from Mrs Perez Fernandez, attaching a Notice of Appeal ('NOA'), which confirmed that she wished to appeal against the decision dated 5 November 2025, to remove her from the dental care professionals register for non-compliance with the CPD requirement for the period 1 August 2023 – 31 July 2025..

Within her email attaching her NOA, Mrs Perez Fernandez acknowledges that she did not record any CPD hours in her online account for that cycle. However, she states that she completed two verified CPD courses which totalled to four hours of verifiable CPD for the period 1 August 2023 – 31 July 2025, which she failed to enter before the submission deadline. Mrs Perez-Fernandez states, "Unfortunately, this occurred during a period of significant family difficulties, which affected my ability to focus and complete administrative tasks with the necessary clarity." Mrs Perez Fernandez explained that these circumstances impacted her ability to submit the documentation within the required timeframe.

Mrs Perez-Fernandez requests that the Committee reconsider their decision in light of the completed CPD activity and her exceptional personal circumstances. Mrs Perez-Fernandez states that she remains committed to complying with her CPD requirements going forward and to maintaining her professional obligations to comply fully with the GDC standards.

Mrs Perez Fernandez provided evidence of four-hour CPD courses completed.

On 8 December 2025, Mrs Perez Fernandez's further CPD evidence was assessed by an Operations Officer. A copy of this assessment appears at page 55. It was concluded that Mrs Perez Fernandez had completed 4 hours of verifiable CPD, which was not enough to meet the Enhanced CPD requirements to submit 10 hours of CPD over 2 consecutive years for the years 2023 – 2025. The Council gave the following reasons for Mrs Perez Fernandez's non-compliance:

- a) Mrs Perez Fernandez had 6 verifiable CPD hours outstanding.*
- b) The Council did not receive a Personal Development Plan or Activity Log.*

In addition, the Council did not receive any information or evidence of exceptional personal circumstances to consider at Notice 6 stage.

Submissions

12. It is the Council's position that Mrs Perez Fernandez is non-compliant with the CPD requirements because she has failed to provide a CPD record demonstrating that she has completed the minimum requirement (of 10 hours of verifiable CPD) for the period 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2025, in accordance with Rule 2. Mrs Perez Fernandez also did not provide a copy of her Personal Development Plan and Activity Log for that period.
13. The Council notes that Mrs Perez Fernandez states that she experienced family difficulties, during the relevant period. The Council sympathises with Mrs Perez Fernandez's personal difficulties. It notes however, that the Council did not receive any information or evidence of exceptional personal circumstances to consider at Notice 6 stage.
14. The Council further acknowledges that Mrs Perez Fernandez has completed additional CPD which has been accepted. As of 8 December 2025, Mrs Perez Fernandez had completed 4 verifiable CPD hours between 1 August 2023 and 31 July 2025, leaving a shortfall of 6 hours. This is not enough to meet the requirement to complete a minimum of 10 verifiable CPD hours in each two-year period, as outlined in Rule 2(5)(b) of the 2017 Rules. Mrs Perez Fernandez has also not demonstrated that she has kept a Personal Development Plan or Activity Log in line with Rule 3 of the Rules.
15. With respect to Mrs Perez Fernandez's CPD requirements, it is submitted by the Council that Mrs Perez Fernandez was reminded on numerous occasions of the need to complete her CPD hours and of the requirement to complete 10 verifiable CPD hours in each two-year period, as set out in detail above.
16. The Council submits that it is a registrant's responsibility to ensure that they meet their CPD requirements, as CPD compliance is a legal requirement of registration.

Committee's decision

17. The Committee had regard to the documentary evidence provided today and took account of the written submissions made on behalf of the GDC and those made by Mrs Perez Fernandez in her NOA. It heard and accepted the advice of the Legal Adviser.
18. Having carefully considered the information before it, the Committee noted that Mrs Perez Fernandez did not provide a CPD record demonstrating that she has completed the minimum requirement (of 10 hours of verifiable CPD) for the period 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2025, in

accordance with Rule 2. Mrs Perez Fernandez also did not provide a copy of her Personal Development Plan and Activity Log for that period.

19. Whilst the Committee gave careful consideration to the circumstances outlined by Mrs Perez Fernandez, it was of the view that the information before it from Mrs Perez Fernandez did not explain anything beyond a vague statement that she had difficult personal circumstances and she did not provide any documentary evidence to demonstrate what these circumstances were or why this prevented her from complying with her CPD requirements. The Committee was therefore not satisfied that these circumstances were exceptional such as to prevent Mrs Perez Fernandez from complying with her CPD requirements.
20. Accordingly, the appeal is dismissed. The Committee wished to remind Mrs Perez Fernandez that it is open to her to apply for the restoration of her name to the Register upon completion of the required number of CPD hours.
21. Unless Mrs Perez Fernandez exercises her right of appeal to the County Court (if their address is in England or Wales) or the sheriff in whose sheriffdom their address is located (if based in Scotland), in accordance with paragraph 6 of Schedule 4A to the Act, the erasure decision will take effect upon the expiry of the 28-day appeal period. It will then be open to Mrs Perez Fernandez to apply for the restoration of her name if she meets the CPD and other requirements for restoration.
22. This will be confirmed to Mrs Perez Fernandez in writing.
23. That concludes this determination.