

**PUBLIC HEARING
Registration Appeals Committee**

03 September 2026

Name: JAMIL, Shaqeba

Case Number: CAS-212797-X9Q1V2

General Dental Council: Christopher Hamlet of Counsel
Instructed by Jack Chaffey of IHLAS

Registrant: Present
Represented by Deacon Joice James Pallickamyail

Outcome: Appeal dismissed

Committee members: Zareen Elleby (Chair, DCP Member)
Shabnum Ali (Dentist Member)
Victoria Buller (Lay Member)

Professional Adviser: Bev Littlemore

Legal Adviser: Mike Bell

Committee Secretary: Paul Carson

Miss Jamil,

1. This is an appeal against the registrar's decision not to grant you registration on the DCP register under the title of Dental Therapist. The issue on appeal is whether you demonstrate the requisite knowledge and skill to practise as a member of the profession under this title in accordance with the requirements of sections 36C(4)(b) or (4A)(b) of the Dentists Act 1984 (the 'Act').

Background

2. You qualified in 2017 with a Bachelor Of Dental Surgery from the Chaudhary Charan Singh University, India. On 18 March 2022 you became registered with the General Dental Council (GDC) as a Dental Hygienist and practise in the United Kingdom under that title.
3. On 6 March 2023, you submitted an application to the GDC for registration under the title of Dental Therapist, relying on your Bachelor of Dental Surgery and the provisions of section 36C of the Act (as in force at the time), which require you to satisfy the registrar of a number of matters, including, so far as is relevant to this appeal, 'Matter C'.
4. Section 36C(4) provides that:

'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.'
5. It is not in dispute that your Bachelor of Dental Surgery degree is a "relevant qualification" for the purposes of section 36C(4)(a) of the Act. The issue for the Committee to decide is whether you demonstrate that you have the requisite knowledge and skill to practise under the title of Dental Therapist in accordance with section 36C(4)(b). When determining whether an applicant has the requisite knowledge and skill, section 36C(5)(a) of the Act requires the Council to take into account all the applicant's relevant qualifications, and all relevant knowledge or experience, wherever acquired.
6. Your application was considered on paper by panels convened by the registrar to assess your qualification, training and experience against the Learning Outcomes which are required for Dental Therapists. The panels met on a total of four occasions with the ultimate outcome of this assessment process being a decision that your applications did not demonstrate that a number of the Learning Outcomes had been covered as part of your training or professional experience.
7. Accordingly, the GDC wrote to you on 20 August 2025 refusing your application for registration as a Dental Therapist. The letter stated:

'...Having taken into account your relevant qualifications and all your relevant knowledge and experience acquired, the GDC has decided you are currently not eligible for registration as a Dental Therapist as you have not satisfied the Registrar that you have the requisite knowledge and skill to practise as a Dental Therapist. The reasons for this decision are set out below.

The following Learning Outcomes appear not to have been covered as part of your training or professional experience:

DTher 1.12.2 Extract erupted deciduous teeth under local anaesthetic - To meet this outcome you were required to provide a recent professional reference evidencing clinical competency.

DTher 1.14.1 Assess and manage caries, occlusion, and tooth wear, and, where appropriate, restore the dentition using the principle of minimal intervention, maintaining function and aesthetics - To meet this outcome you were required to provide a recent professional reference evidencing clinical competency in working via minimal intervention and managing basic erosional wear and tooth surface loss.

DTher 1.14.2 Restore teeth using a wide range of treatments and materials appropriate to the patient including permanent and temporary direct restorations, maintaining function and aesthetics - To meet this outcome you were required to provide a recent professional reference confirming clinical competency covering the full range of restorations.

DTher 1.14.3 Provide pulp treatment for deciduous teeth - To meet this outcome you were required to provide a recent professional reference confirming clinical competency in performing pulp treatment on primary teeth.

DTher 1.14.4 Restore deciduous teeth using preformed crowns - To meet this outcome you were required to provide a recent professional reference confirming clinical competency in the use of pre-formed crowns.'

8. On 15 September 2025 you lodged your appeal against this decision. Your grounds included that you possessed sufficient knowledge and skills to practise as a Dental Therapist and that your qualifications, clinical experience, professional references and CPD demonstrated the required competence.

The appeal hearing 03 September 2026

9. The Committee met today over Microsoft Teams to consider your appeal. The Committee had regard to the oral evidence which you gave and to the documents provided in support of your appeal, including documentation and evidence which was not available to the registrar's assessment panels. This included a further professional work reference covering a period of clinical work undertaken in India between 2 and 30 August 2026, just days before this hearing.
10. Mr Hamlet, on behalf of the registrar, submitted that this appeal was a fresh consideration of your application and that the burden was upon you to satisfy the Committee that you currently possess the knowledge and skills necessary to practise as a Dental Therapist.

11. He acknowledged that the most recent reference appeared, on its face, to address the five outstanding learning outcomes. He submitted that it was for the Committee to assess that evidence alongside the earlier material and your oral evidence and determine whether the previously identified deficiencies had now been addressed.
12. Mr Hamlet reminded the Committee that registration could not be granted subject to supervision or other restrictions. It was therefore necessary for the Committee to be satisfied that you currently possess the requisite knowledge and skills. He further submitted that, if the Committee were satisfied in relation to those matters, the separate requirements concerning identity, English language, character and health ("Matter D") would still require consideration by the registrar before the registration process could be completed.
13. Deacon Joice James Pallickamyilil submitted that your Bachelor of Dental Surgery and previous clinical experience as a dentist in India provided a substantial foundation in support of your application. He also relied upon your subsequent work in the UK as a Dental Hygienist and on the new professional work reference covering your recent clinical experience in India. He submitted that this evidence directly addresses the outstanding five learning outcomes and demonstrates that you are clinically competent in those areas. He also relied upon your oral evidence, your CPD and the support available to you from your current UK practice. He invited the Committee to allow your appeal.

Decision

14. The Committee accepted the advice of the Professional Adviser.
15. The Committee accepted the advice of the Legal Adviser.
16. The Committee recognised that you are an experienced Dental Hygienist in the UK and that you have previously practised as a Dentist in India. It also recognised the considerable effort you had made to obtain recent clinical experience in India immediately before this hearing. The Committee was satisfied that some aspects of your evidence demonstrated appropriate knowledge. In particular, it considered that some of your answers concerning the assessment and management of occlusion were satisfactory.
17. However, the Committee was not satisfied, having regard to the evidence as a whole, that you demonstrate the knowledge and current skills necessary to practise the full scope of the clinical duties of a Dental Therapist.
18. The most recent professional work reference on which you rely is detailed and appeared to provide strong evidence that you had recently undertaken substantial numbers of procedures to address the outstanding learning outcomes. However, your oral evidence gave rise to uncertainty about the extent to which the procedures described in the reference had been directly observed.
19. In particular, the reference appeared to suggest a substantial degree of observation of approximately 330 patient appointments. It expressed conclusions about the precision of your technical skills. In your oral evidence, however, you explained that the referee was not present throughout each procedure and that other dentists sometimes observed you. Your estimates of the proportion of procedures observed also varied. At

one stage you estimated approximately 70%, whereas you later described observation of approximately three or four patients from a daily total of 12 to 14.

20. Whilst the Committee was satisfied that the clinical work you described had been carried out, the discrepancies in relation to what extent that work was directly observed and by whom reduced the weight the Committee was able to place upon the reference.
21. The Committee also took account of the limited amount of recent clinical experience you have had performing dental therapy procedures. This clinical experience had been accumulated during relatively short and sporadic periods in India. Your work in the UK as a Dental Hygienist does not permit you to undertake a number of the procedures which are within the Scope of Practice as a Dental Therapist and so does not advance your application for registration under that title.
22. In your oral evidence, some of your responses to questions regarding clinical competency required repeated questioning before you were able to explain the procedure or relevant requirements. This lack of fluency and certainty in your answers appeared inconsistent with the way in which your clinical knowledge and skills and experience were described in the detailed terms of the most recent professional work reference.
23. The Committee also noted that you had not maintained your own contemporaneous record or reflective log of the clinical work undertaken during that period of clinical practice in August 2026. The approximate procedural numbers contained within the reference had instead been obtained retrospectively by the referee from accessing the clinical systems.
24. In your oral evidence you stated that, if registered, you would refresh your knowledge, undertake further CPD and seek support from colleagues before undertaking work about which you were uncertain. That is a responsible approach to clinical practice and one which the Committee accepted you have the professional integrity to follow. However, the question for the Committee is whether you currently possess the requisite knowledge and skill for registration: not whether you would develop this once registered. There is no provision in the Committee's powers to allow registration as a Dental Therapist to be conditional upon further training, supervision or a gradual transition into practice: you must already demonstrate the requisite knowledge and skill if your appeal is to succeed.
25. Having regard to the evidence as a whole, the Committee determined that you do not demonstrate the requisite knowledge and skill for registration as a Dental Therapist.
26. Accordingly, your appeal fails and is dismissed.
27. The Committee thanks you for your participation today and wishes you continued success in your career in the UK as a Dental Hygienist.
28. That concludes this determination.