

PRIVATE HEARING
Health Committee
Review Hearing
10 June 2026

Name: PATEL, Bhavish

Registration number: 74574

Case number: CAS-197607-X2Z7G9

General Dental Council: Miss Peta-Louise Bagott, counsel.
Instructed by Jalpa Patel, IHLPS

Registrant: Present
Represented by Mr Michael Rawlinson, counsel.
Instructed by Weightmans

Fitness to practise: Impaired by reason of health

Outcome: Conditions extended (with a review)

Duration: 6 months

Committee members: Debbie Jones (Chair, DCP Member)
Caitriona Gerber Walsh (Dentist Member)
Jane Jones (Lay Member)

Legal Adviser: Alexander Coleman

Committee Secretary: Sarah Crewe

At this hearing the Committee made a determination that includes some private information. That information has been omitted from the separate public version of this determination, and that public document has been marked to show where private material has been removed. The private material appears in highlighted form in this private version of the determination.

1. This is an resumed hearing before the Health Committee (HC), pursuant to section 27C of the Dentists Act 1984 (as amended) ('the Act'). The hearing is being conducted remotely by Microsoft Teams video-link. You are present at the hearing and are represented by Mr Rawlinson, Counsel. Ms Bagott, Counsel, appears on behalf of the General Dental Council (GDC)
2. The purpose of the hearing has been for the Committee to conduct a review of the substantive order of conditions currently in place on your registration.

Preliminary application to hold the hearing in private under Rule 53

3. At the outset Ms Bagott made a joint application for the whole hearing to be heard in private pursuant to Rule 53(2)(a) of the GDC (Fitness to Practise) Rules Order of Council 2006 ('the Rules') since the matters under consideration relate to your health.
4. Given that this case relates to your health, the Committee is satisfied that it is appropriate for the hearing to be heard in private. Accordingly, it acceded to the joint application under Rule 53.

Background to the review

5. Your case was first considered by the HC in August 2022. [PRIVATE].
6. The HC in August 2022 found proved allegations, all of which you admitted, relating to your adverse health, and to your failure to cooperate with the GDC's investigation into your fitness to practice. [PRIVATE]. In terms of your misconduct, you admitted, and it was found proved that from 26 April 2021 to 27 May 2021, you failed to cooperate with the investigation conducted by the GDC by not providing the Council with the following information:

- Details of your working arrangements covering the period from 12 April 2021 onwards.
- Sufficient evidence of indemnity covering the period from 12 April 2021 onwards.
- A medical reference form completed by your General Practitioner or other medical practitioner.
- A completed Health Assessment form.

7. With regard to your failure to cooperate with the GDC's investigation, the HC in August 2022 found that this amounted to misconduct. It stated the following in its determination:

"Whilst the Committee took into account your evidence about your personal circumstances around the material time, it did not consider that they excused what was a serious breach of a fundamental tenet of the dental profession. Your failure to respond to the GDC's communications and to provide the information sought, served to undermine its role as the regulator of the profession".

8. In determining whether your fitness to practise as a dentist was impaired, the HC in August 2022 considered the issue of your misconduct, as well as the health matters found proved.
9. With regard to your misconduct, that initial HC determined that a finding of impairment on the basis of public protection was not necessary. However, it was satisfied that your misconduct required a finding of impairment in the wider public interest. In this regard, it stated the following in its determination:

“Engaging with the GDC, as your regulatory body, is a fundamental GDC Standard. The Committee has found, and you have admitted, that you failed in your duty to adhere to this important requirement...In the Committee’s view, given your serious breach of a fundamental GDC Standard, public confidence in the dental profession would be undermined if a finding of impairment were not made in the circumstances of this case. It also considered that such a finding is required to uphold and declare professional standards.”

10. The HC in August 2022 also found your fitness to practise to be impaired on the basis of your adverse health. [PRIVATE].
11. The sanction imposed on your registration by the HC in August 2022 was an order of suspension for a period of nine months. That Committee also directed a review of your case shortly before the end of the period of suspension.

First Review 15 May 2023

12. Your order of suspension was reviewed by the HC on 15 May 2023. You attended the hearing and were represented. On that occasion, the reviewing Committee determined that your fitness to practise was no longer impaired by reason of your misconduct. However, it reached the view that you remain impaired by reason of adverse health on the grounds of public protection and in the wider public interest. The reviewing Committee determined to revoke the order of suspension and replace it with an order of conditions for a period of 12 months with a review.

Second Review 29 April 2024

13. Your conditions of practise order was reviewed by the HC on 29 April 2024. You attended the hearing and were represented. On that occasion, the reviewing Committee determined that your fitness to practise remained impaired by reason of adverse health on the grounds of public protection and in the wider public interest. The reviewing Committee determined to continue with the order of conditions for a further period of 12 months with a review.

Third Review 7 May 2025

14. A third review of your case took place on 7 May 2025. You attended the hearing and were represented. At that review hearing the Committee determined that your fitness to practise remained impaired by reason of adverse health. The conditions of practice on your registration were extended for a further 12 months, with a review.

Today’s review

15. This Health Committee has comprehensively reviewed your case. It has taken account of the submissions made by Miss Bagott on behalf of the GDC and those made by Mr Rawlinson on your behalf. The Committee accepted the advice of the Legal Adviser.
16. Miss Bagott fully outlined the background of this case and submitted that in light of the evidence presented, the GDC invites the Committee to find that your fitness to practise remains currently impaired by reason of your adverse health on the grounds of public protection and the wider public interest.
17. Miss Bagott referred the Committee to the bundle of documents before it and submitted that [PRIVATE], a further period of conditional practice for 12 months with a review for both the protection of the public and to maintain public confidence in the profession would be the appropriate outcome.
18. Mr Rawlinson informed the Committee that you concede that your fitness to practise remains impaired by reason of your adverse health condition. He submitted that the main issue between the parties is the length of time for the extension of the conditions. He submitted that given the trajectory of your progress it would be appropriate to extend the conditions for a period of 6 months.
19. Mr Rawlinson submitted that [PRIVATE] you have demonstrated a period of continuous working. [PRIVATE].
20. Mr Rawlinson submitted that you have demonstrated that you can work under the conditions, and you have complied with them. You have provided a number of positive testimonials from colleagues that speak to your character both professionally [PRIVATE].

21. [PRIVATE].

22. [PRIVATE].

23. [PRIVATE].

Current Impairment

24. In considering whether your fitness to practise remains impaired, the Committee has borne in mind that, although you concede that your fitness to practise is impaired, this is a matter for its own independent judgement. It has also had regard to its duty to protect the public, declare and uphold proper standards of conduct and competence and maintain public confidence in the profession and the way it is regulated.
25. The Committee first considered whether you have complied with the conditions imposed on your registration. It was satisfied from the evidence before it that you appear to have broadly complied with your conditions .
26. [PRIVATE].

27. The Committee noted that both parties have stated that your fitness to practise is currently impaired by reason of your adverse health on the grounds of public protection and public interest.
28. Having taken all the evidence into account, the Committee determined that your fitness to practise remains impaired by reason of your adverse health [PRIVATE] for the protection of the public and also in the wider public interest. It noted that this was accepted in the submissions made on your behalf.

Decision on sanction

29. The Committee next considered what action to take in respect of your registration. It had regard to section 27C(2) of the Act, which sets out the directions it may make at this review. It also took into account the '*Guidance for the Practice Committees including Indicative Sanctions Guidance*'.
30. The Committee noted that the purpose of any sanction is not to be punitive, although it may have that effect, but to protect the public and to uphold the public interest. The Committee applied the principle of proportionality, balancing the public interest with your own interests.
31. The Committee noted that you have been in work for a prolonged period of time under the current conditions and that you have been working towards being able to demonstrate that you are no longer impaired. However, when considering whether it would be appropriate to allow the current order to lapse at its expiry or to revoke it with immediate effect the Committee considered that this would not protect the public nor would it be in the public interest. The Committee considered that a period of 12 months abstinence would be needed to be satisfied that the risks are sufficiently addressed.
32. The Committee then considered whether to extend the current conditions of practice order. Given the evidence of steps you have taken to address your health and your cooperation and compliance with the process, the Committee was satisfied that conditions of practice remain workable and measurable. The Committee was also satisfied that conditions would continue to address the public interest and protect the public. It had regard to the information provided in the medical reports and concluded that conditions of practice remain the appropriate and proportionate order.
33. [PRIVATE].
34. [PRIVATE].
35. The Committee concluded that the appropriate sanction in this case was to extend the conditions of practice order for a period of 6 months, with a review.
36. Conditions 1 to 5 and 14 to 23 are public conditions and they will appear alongside your name in the GDC Register. Conditions 6 to 13 relate to your health and will be kept confidential:

[PUBLIC]

1. You must within 7 days notify the GDC of any professional appointment he accepts which requires GDC registration and provide the contact details of his employer or any organisation for which he is contracted to provide dental services and details of the Commissioning Body on whose Dental Performers List he is included.
2. If employed, you must provide contact details of your employer and allow the GDC to exchange information with your employer or any contracting body for which you are contracted to 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 these conditions take effect.
5. You must inform the GDC within 7 days from the date of application, if you apply for dental employment outside the UK.

[PRIVATE]

6. [PRIVATE].

7. [PRIVATE].

8. [PRIVATE].

9. [PRIVATE].

10. [PRIVATE].

11. [PRIVATE].

12. [PRIVATE].

[PRIVATE].

[PUBLIC]

13. At any time, you are employed, or 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 a GDC registrant in the same category as the registrant (or higher). The reporter shall work in the same practice as the Registrant.
14. You must meet every two weeks with your reporter, (this can be done remotely) and conduct work based reflective practice.

15. You must not start or restart work until your reporter has been approved by the GDC.
 16. You must present the reporter with a copy of this determination within 7 days of the reporter being approved. You must provide the GDC with a copy of the notification to your reporter within 7 days.
 17. You must not engage in single handed dental practice.
 18. You must not work as a locum or undertake any out-of-hours work.
 19. You must provide a report from the reporter to the GDC every 3 months and, at least 14 days in advance of any review hearing. This report should include:
 - Confirmation of compliance from the reporter;
 - Confirmation of any complaints (formal or informal) received;
 - Any other relevant information.
 20. You must allow the GDC to exchange information with your employer or any organisation for which you are contracted to provide dental services referred to in these conditions.
 21. You must inform within 7 days, the following parties that your registration is subject to the conditions, listed at (1) to (21), above:
 - Any organisation or person employing or contracting with him to undertake dental work.
 - Any prospective employer (at the time of application).
 - The Commissioning Body in whose Dental Performers List he is included, or seeking inclusion (at the time of application)
- You must provide evidence to the GDC that you have done so within 7 days.
22. You must permit the GDC to disclose the above conditions, (1) to (22), to any person requesting information about your registration status.

Review of the order

37. A Committee will review your case at a resumed hearing to be held shortly before the end of this period of conditional registration. That Committee will consider what action to take in relation to your registration. You will be informed of the date and time of that resumed hearing.
38. Unless you exercise your right of appeal, the above conditions will take effect 28 days from the date that notice is deemed to have been served upon you.
39. That concludes the hearing.