

**PUBLIC HEARING  
Registration Appeals Committee  
(Registration Appeal Hearing)**

**12 November 2025**

**Name:** MUTAHIR, Aliya

**Application number:** 183164

**Case number:** CAS-211760-B8V4Z9

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**General Dental Council:** Ms Peta-Louise Bagott  
Instructed by Ms Ela Rexhaj, IHLPS

**Registrant:** Present, accompanied by her husband, Mr Mutahir

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**Outcome:** Appeal dismissed

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**Committee members:** Martin Isherwood (Chair, Dental Care Professional Member)  
Aleena Choudhry (Lay Member)  
Suki Sandhar (Dentist Member)

**Professional Adviser** Bev Littlemore

**Legal adviser:** Charles Apthorp

**Committee Secretary:** Jenny Hazell

Mrs Mutahir,

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 at these proceedings and are supported by your husband. Ms Bagott, 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 23 October 2025, which was drawn to the Committee's attention by Ms Bagott in her opening submissions.
6. On 2 March 2023 the GDC received an application from you for registration as a dental care professional (DCP) under the title of dental hygienist, relying on your Bachelor of Dental Surgery diploma obtained in Pakistan in January 2010.

### **First Panel assessment of application and decision**

7. Three assessors formed a Registration Assessment Panel (the First Panel) on 14 November 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 First Panel was not satisfied that the content of the training course which led to the award of your overseas qualification met the standard in preparing to practice. Further, having taken into account the information provided by you about your professional experience and any additional training undertaken, the First Panel was not satisfied that this experience covered the shortfalls identified. The First Panel 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.
8. The Registrar relied on the First Panel's recommendation and decided to refuse your application for registration as a dental hygienist. You were notified of this decision on 18 November 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 (matter C).
9. The letter advised that if you had new or additional information to address the deficiencies, this would be considered by the Registrar if submitted by 18 December 2024.
10. You provided the GDC with professional references as well as an up to date CV.

### **Second Panel assessment of application and decision**

11. Three assessors formed a Registration Assessment Panel (the Second Panel) on 7 May 2025 and conducted an assessment of your application. The Second Panel had before it a copy of the November decision letter as well as the new information which included:

- An email from you dated 12 December 2025 outlining further evidence provided
- Your updated CV
- An email from referee Dr FS verifying reference dated 19 February 2025
- A reference from Dr FS dated 9 December 2024
- Your self-reflections dated 10 December 2024
- Copies of your CPD certificates

12. In considering the reassessment application, the Second Panel recommended that you be refused registration under the title of dental hygienist. It remained of the view that the content of the training course which led to the award of your overseas qualification did not meet the standard in preparing to practice. Further, having taken into account the information provided by you about your professional experience and any additional training undertaken, the Second Panel was not satisfied that this experience covered the shortfalls identified. The Second Panel 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.

13. The Registrar relied on the Second Panel's recommendation and decided to refuse your application for registration as a dental hygienist. You were notified of this decision on 27 May 2025. You were 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 set out the learning outcome deficiencies. The letter also advised you of your right of appeal against the decision.

#### Notice of appeal

14. On 24 June 2025 the GDC received your Notice of Appeal (NOA). In support of your appeal you set out the following grounds:

- a. Error in the decision: The Council erred in their decision to refuse registration on the basis that the evidence provided was insufficient to satisfy the Registrar that she has the requisite knowledge and skill.
- b. Deficiencies addressed by professional reference: The professional reference from Dr FS covered the following learning outcomes which were identified as deficient by the Second Panel:
  - i. *Page 1, bullet point 1: DH 1.2.1 – Recognise the importance of and carry out an appropriate systematic intra- and extra-oral clinical examination 2.*
  - ii. *Page 1, bullet point 2: DH 1.2.2 – Recognise the importance of and record a comprehensive and contemporaneous patient history 3.*
  - iii. *Pages 1 & 2, bullet point 3: DH 1.2.5 – Undertake relevant special investigations and diagnostics procedures, including radiography 4.*
  - iv. *Page 2, bullet point 4: DH 1.2.6 – Assess patients' levels of anxiety, experience and expectations in respect of dental care 5.*
  - v. *Page 2, bullet point 5: DH 1.2.7 – Discuss the importance of each component of the patient assessment process 6.*
  - vi. *Pages 2 & 3, bullet point 6: DH 1.5.2 – Obtain valid consent from the patient before starting treatment, explaining all the relevant options and possible costs 7.*
  - vii. *Page 3, bullet point 7: DH 1.5.4 – Identify where patients' needs may differ from treatment plan and refer patients for advice when and where appropriate 8.*
  - viii. *Page 3, bullet point 8: DH 1.7.3 – Recognize the need to monitor and review treatment outcomes.*

- ix. Page 3, bullet point 9: DH 1.7.4 – Manage Patient Anxiety and Pain through effective communication, reassurance and relevant behaviour techniques
- 10. Page 3, bullet point x. DH 1.7.5 – Manage patient through the appropriate use of analgesia
- xi. Page 3, bullet point 11: DH 1.8.1 – Recognise the risks around clinical environment and manage these in a safe and efficient manner
- xii. Page 4, bullet point 13: DH 1.10.4 – Advise on and apply a range of preventive materials and treatment
- xiii. Page 4, bullet point 14: DH 1.10.5 – Assess the results of treatment and provide appropriate aftercare and ongoing preventive advice
- xiv. Page 4, bullet point 15: DH 1.11.1 – Assess and manage the health of periodontal and soft tissues taking into account risk and lifestyle factors
- xv. Page 4, bullet point 16: DH 1.11.3 – Undertake non-surgical treatments, under prescription where appropriate, to remove hard and soft deposits and stains using a range of methods
- xvi. Pages 4 & 5, bullet point 17: DH 1.11.4 – Monitor and record changes in periodontal health as necessary using appropriate indices
- xvii. Page 5, bullet point 18: DH 1.11.5 – Recognise and appropriately manage the complications associated with periodontal therapy
- xviii. Page 5, bullet point 19: DH 1.11.6 – Place temporary dressings and re-cement crowns with a temporary cement
- xix. Page 5, bullet point 20: DH 1.11.7 – Recognise the role of surgical management of periodontal disease and provide appropriate patient care
- xx. Page 5, bullet point 21: DH 1.11.8 – Describe risks related to dental implant therapy and manage the health of peri-implant tissues
- xxi. Pages 5 & 6, bullet points 22, 23, and 24: DH 3.0 – Patients, their representatives and the public: Communicate appropriately, effectively and sensibly at all times with and about patients, their representatives and the general public and in relation to: -
  - Patients with anxious or challenging behaviour
  - Referring patients to colleagues, particularly where patients are from diverse backgrounds or there are barriers to patient communication
  - Difficult circumstances, such as when breaking bad news, and when discussing issues, such as alcohol consumption, smoking or diet
  - Obtain informed consent

c. CPD evidence: You submitted that the CPD evidence you previously provided to the GDC demonstrated further learning, and that covered the requirement of requisite skill and knowledge.

d. Inadequate explanation by the Registrar: You set out that section 36C of the Dentists Act 1984 does not provide an explanation as to what “sufficient evidence of clinical experience” is. In addition, you explained that there is no guidance that offered an explanation either, and state that the Registrar did not explain in the decision letter why the clinical evidence you provided was insufficient.

## **The Registrar’s position**

15. The Registrar’s position, as set out in its written submissions dated 23 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 the Second Panel’s assessment dated May 2025 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.

16. 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.

17. 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**

18. 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 the reasons set out in your NOA dated 24 June 2025, including the professional reference from Dr FS, who covered the learning outcomes which were identified as deficient by the Second Panel. You also rely on your CPD as evidence of your further learning.

19. In answer to questions from the Professional Adviser and the Committee, you set out the background to your experience as a dentist working in Pakistan at the clinic of Dr FS. This covered the periods from November 2013 to February 2014; from November 2020 to January 2021 and from October 2023 to November 2023. You accepted that your work was not supervised or appraised by Dr FS. You also explained that you carried out the initial assessment and treatment of patients with periodontal conditions but that this work would be continued and maintained by Dr FS after you left Pakistan.

20. You also provided further information in relation to your work as a trainee dental nurse on a part time basis three days a week in the United Kingdom since 2021. You explained that as a trainee nurse in the UK you would assist the dentist and/or dental therapist/hygienist in preparing for various clinical procedures such as the preparation of fillings and other materials and advising patients on oral hygiene under the supervision of a dentist.

21. You told the Committee that you completed part one of the Overseas Registration Exam (ORE) in 2013 and you attempted part two in 2015 but you did not pass it. You also explained that you passed parts one and two of the Licence in Dental Surgery (LDS) but you did not pass part three. The Committee note that you intend to take part three of the LDS in 2026.

### **The Committee's decision on your appeal**

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

23. 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.

24. The Committee has borne in mind that although you have had clinical experience as a trainee dental nurse in the UK you have not attended any hands-on courses to gain practical experience to carry out key procedures relevant to the role of a dental hygienist. In addition, the Committee had concerns about your level of understanding in relation to the application of relevant guidelines concerning the diagnosis and management of periodontal disease in the UK, something which is fundamental to the role of a dental hygienist. Further, you did not appear to understand that you needed the dentist to provide a prescription before administering local anaesthetic.

25. The Committee was not reassured by your evidence that you understood the full scope of practice of a dental hygienist in comparison to the role of a dentist. Overall, the Committee was concerned about your knowledge and skill in light of the limited answers that you gave in your evidence.

26. The Committee considered that your clinical experience of working as a dentist in Pakistan, as set out in Dr FS's letter dated 9 December 2024, was limited to the periods from November 2013 to February 2014; from November 2020 to January 2021 and from October 2023 to November 2023. Overall, this amounted to approximately nine months in over twelve years. During that time your work as a dentist was not directly supervised or subject to clinical audits. The Committee has therefore given limited weight to this evidence of clinical experience.

27. The Committee has borne in mind that you have undertaken some CPD in support of your application. However, in the Committee's view, there was 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.

28. 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 the Second Panel in May 2025. 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).

29. The Committee therefore determined to refuse your appeal.

30. That concludes this determination.