PRIVATE HEARING

Health Committee
Review Hearing

29 October 2026

Name:	SHIRIN, Esther
Registration number:	66954
Case number:	CAS-193175-W8D6M7

General Dental Council:	Tom Stevens, Counsel Instructed by Georgina Mayles, IHLPS
Registrant:	Present Represented by Ben Rich, Counsel Instructed by Bridget Miles, Weightmans

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Fitness to practise:	Impaired by reason of health
Outcome:	Conditions extended (with a review)
Duration:	12 months

Committee members:	Fiona Abbott	(Chair, lay member)
	Alexandra Ward	(Dental Care Professional member)
	Suki Sandhar	(Dentist member)
Legal adviser:	Jane Kilgannon	
Committee Secretary:	Sara Page	

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

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2. The purpose of today's hearing is to review a substantive direction imposed on your registration by the Health Committee (HC). The hearing is being held in accordance with section 27C of '*Dentists Act 1984'* (as amended), 'the Act'.

3. The members of the Committee, as well as the Legal Adviser and the Committee Secretary, conducted the hearing remotely via Microsoft Teams in line with current General Dental Council (GDC) practice.

4. You were present at the hearing and represented by Mr Ben Rich, Counsel, instructed by Weightmans.

5. Mr Tom Stevens, Case Presenter, appeared on behalf of the GDC.

Application for the hearing to be held entirely in private

6. At the beginning of the hearing, Mr Stevens made a joint application under Rule 53 of the *'General Dental Council (Fitness to Practise) Rules Order of Council 2006'* ('the Rules') that this hearing be held entirely in private since the matters under consideration relate to your health. He made the submission pursuant to Rule 53(2)(a), as follows:

> ***53.***— *(2) All or part of a hearing may be held in private—*
>
> *(a) where the interests of the parties or the protection of the private and family life of the respondent or any other person so requires…*

7. Mr Rich did not make any submissions but indicated that he supported the application made by Mr Stevens.

8. The Committee heard and accepted the advice of the Legal Adviser in this regard.

9. The Committee bore in mind that, as a starting point, hearings should be conducted in public session. However, due to the nature of the matters in this case and having regard to the information before it, the Committee was satisfied that your personal interests outweighed the public interest in this case.

10. The Committee was satisfied that the hearing should be held entirely in private in order to protect your private and family life, and therefore acceded to Mr Stevens' application.

11. The Committee therefore determined that the hearing should be held entirely in private, and directed that two versions of the determination be made available, with appropriate redactions made to the public version that is made available to the public upon request.

Background

12. This is the third review of a substantive order initially imposed as a suspension order by the Health Committee (the HC) on your registration on 22 November 2023.

13. The order was reviewed on the following occasions:

- 14 November 2024 (Suspension revoked, conditions of practice imposed); and,
- 14 November 2025 (Conditions extended and varied).

14. At the review hearing on 14 November 2025, the previous HC found your fitness to practise remained impaired by reason of your health and provided its reasons for finding current impairment. [PRIVATE] …

> *The Committee also had regard to the wider public interest and was satisfied that public confidence in the dental profession would be undermined if a finding of current impairment were not made in the circumstances of this case.'*

15. The previous HC directed that the conditions of practice imposed on 14 November 2024 be extended (with variation) for a period of 12 months, with a review, stating:

> *'[PRIVATE].*
>
> *The Committee next considered whether it should extend the current conditions of practice on your registration, with the variations agreed by both parties. [PRIVATE].*
>
> *The Committee therefore directs that the current conditions of practice order should be varied as proposed and should continue for a period of 12 months. It was satisfied that a period of 12 months is reasonable and proportionate in all the circumstances to enable you to further address your health issues such that you may return to unrestricted practice at the end of this period.'*

Update since previous review

16. [PRIVATE].

17. [PRIVATE].

18. The Committee was also informed that you have been accepted on to the NHS Dental Performers' List on 21 May 2026.

19. The Committee was also provided with an updated reflective statement from you, dated 26 October 2026, together with updated certificates of Continuing Professional Development (CPD).

Submissions

20. Mr Stevens, on behalf of the GDC, invited the Committee to consider continuing the current order of conditional registration for a period of six to nine months, with a review. He submitted that you have actively engaged in this process, not only as reflected in your attendance and providing a thoughtful reflection for the Committee today to consider, but that you have remained fully compliant with the substantive order, [PRIVATE].

21. Mr Stevens reminded the Committee that it is not tasked with revisiting any previous factual findings, but that it has the right to consider the most recent evidence [PRIVATE].

22. Therefore, Mr Stevens submitted that, notwithstanding the tremendous steps you have taken to address your health to this point, your fitness to practise remains currently impaired. He submitted that following any extension of the current order, it would be open to you to evidence

that you have returned to practise without issue and hopefully be in a position to remove all restrictions on your registration.

23. Mr Rich, on your behalf, accepted the submission made by Mr Stevens regarding your engagement and progress relating to your health condition. He invited the Committee to extend the current order of conditions of practice for eight months. He stated that you currently have two offers of employment and that both potential employers are aware of the current order and your fitness to practise history; one offer is at a dental practice for two days a week and the other offer is with a friend who is opening a practice and would likely consist of one day a week, partly on prosthetics which is your particular interest as a dentist. Mr Rich confirmed that you have no intention to work above three days a week. He stated that as you do not intend to undertake work until the new year, an eight month order would allow for another review to be undertaken after you had practised for six months. He also confirmed that you are now back on the NHS Dental Performers' List.

24. Mr Rich informed the Committee that you [PRIVATE] have retained your positivity and enthusiasm for dentistry, noting that you would be willing to comply with conditional registration should conditions be renewed. Mr Rich referred the Committee to the comprehensive information setting out what you have done over the past year, including how you have maintained your clinical dental skills [PRIVATE]. He also told the Committee that you have been studying public speaking and working with a university to help students [PRIVATE]. Mr Rich stated that your great desire is to return to clinical practice under the kinds of conditions currently imposed and that it would be beneficial to you and the public to return you to clinical practice.

Decision and reasons on today's review

25. The Committee has carefully considered all the information presented to it, including the documentation and submissions provided by the GDC, and heard and accepted the advice of the Legal Adviser.

26. In its deliberations, the Committee has had regard to the GDC's '*Fitness to Practise: Guidance for the practice committees (6 January 2026)*'.

Impairment

27. The Committee first considered whether your fitness to practise remains impaired by reason of your health condition. In reaching its decision, the Committee was mindful of the need to protect the public and to maintain public confidence in the profession.

28. In consideration of your current fitness to practise, the Committee noted that since the previous review, you have provided a genuine, detailed, and comprehensive written statement comprising an up to date overview of your current health and employment situation. [PRIVATE]. You also provided evidence of positive steps taken to address your absence from clinical practice including training and CPD courses you have undertaken, details regarding your time shadowing a former Dental Technician colleague, working on phantom heads, and meeting with an experienced clinician and practice owner to undertake a plan to return to clinical practice.

29. The Committee noted that despite you not practising as a dentist at this time, you have been complying with the current conditions of practice and have continued to engage with the regulatory process throughout, including your attendance at today's review. [PRIVATE].

30. [PRIVATE].

31. Whilst the Committee commended you for the considerable work you have undertaken to address the concerns of the previous HC and the steps you have taken to address your adverse health, [PRIVATE] there remains a risk of ongoing harm to the public. [PRIVATE], the Committee determined that despite the clear and commendable steps you have taken to address your fitness to practise, there remains a risk to the public were you to be returned to unrestricted practice at this time.

32. Accordingly, a finding of current impairment remains necessary for the protection of the public.

33. The Committee was also satisfied that public confidence in the dental profession would be undermined if a finding of current impairment were not made in the circumstances of this case and that a finding of impairment is also required on the ground of public interest.

34. The Committee therefore determined that your fitness to practise remains impaired by reason of adverse health.

Sanction

35. In coming to its decision on sanction, the Committee took account of the options available to it at this stage and that the purpose of any action taken is not to be punitive, but to protect the public and the wider public interest. It noted that it must impose the least restrictive sanction to adequately address the public protection and public interest concerns and that any sanction must be appropriate and proportionate in the particular circumstances of this case.

36. The Committee took into account both Mr Stevens' and Mr Rich's submissions that conditions of practice are sufficient to protect the public and satisfy the public interest concerns identified. It acknowledged that you have been engaging in this process throughout and have been compliant with conditional registration without yet having returned to clinical practice. The Committee was satisfied that you have cooperated with the GDC and the regulatory process and it had no concerns that you would not comply with conditional registration when in clinical practice. [PRIVATE].

37. The Committee noted the information provided today relating to your intention to return to clinical practice in the new year and your offers of employment and that, should you do so conditions of practice would be workable and measurable whilst mitigating against the risks identified to public protection and the wider public interest, [PRIVATE].

38. Therefore, the Committee determined that the appropriate and proportionate sanction at this time is a continuation of the current conditions of practice for a period of 12 months, with a review, as follows:

    1) *You must notify the GDC within 7 days of any post you accept and of the commissioning body on whose dental performer's list you are included.*

    2) *You must provide full contact details of your employer to the GDC within 7 days and allow the GDC to exchange information with your employer or any contracting body for which you 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 of this determination.*

5) *You must inform the GDC within 7 days from the date of application if you apply for dental employment outside the UK.*

6) *[PRIVATE].*

7) *[PRIVATE].*

8) *[PRIVATE].*

9) *[PRIVATE].*

10) *[PRIVATE].*

11) *[PRIVATE].*

12) *You shall not engage in single-handed dental practice and shall only work at premises where there is another GDC registrant who is a dentist and is working at the same time as you are working.*

13) *You must not work as a locum for posts of less than three months' duration or undertake any out-of-hours work or-on call duties outside of your substantive position.*

14) *At any time you are 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 in the same category of the register as, or higher than, you.*

15) *You must allow the reporter to provide reports to the GDC at intervals of not more than 3 months and 14 days prior to any review hearing. The reports should address the following:*

- *Whether there have been any concerns/complaints raised about you;*
- *Your general compliance with your conditions.*

16) *You must keep your professional commitments under review and limit your dental practice in accordance with medical advice; you must stop working immediately if advised to do so.*

17) *You must inform the GDC that you have been advised to stop working within 7 days of being advised to cease.*

18) *You must inform within 1 week the following parties that your registration is subject to the conditions, listed at 1) – 5) and 12) – 17) above, and provide evidence of this to the GDC:*

a) *any organisation or person employing or contracting with you to undertake dental work;*
b) *any prospective employer (at the time of application);*
c) *The Principal Dentist and the Practice Manager at your place of work; and,*

d) any Commissioning Body in whose Dental Performers List you are included or seeking inclusion (at the time of application).

19) You must permit the GDC to disclose the above conditions, 1) – 5) and 12) – 18) to any person requesting information about your registration status.

39. In consideration of the period for the conditions of practice order, the Committee took into account the submissions of Mr Stevens and Mr Rich. It took into account that you have been out of clinical practice for a considerable period of time [PRIVATE]. In the Committee's view, 12 months would allow you sufficient time to secure employment, begin clinical practice and demonstrate compliance [PRIVATE], that you are able to resume practice without incident [PRIVATE].

40. The conditions of practice order will be reviewed before it expires at which a reviewing committee will be able to assess any further evidence provided by you.

Right of appeal

41. You will have 28 days from the date on which notice of this decision is deemed to have been served on you to appeal against it. Should you decide to appeal, the existing direction of conditions will remain in force until the resolution of any such appeal. Should you decide not to appeal, the conditions of practice order will take effect on the date on which the current order would otherwise expire, that is to say on 11 December 2026.

42. That will be confirmed to you in writing.

43. That concludes this determination.