

## PUBLIC HEARING

### Registration Appeals Committee

29 July 2025

**MUHAMMAD, Rehan**

**Name:** MUHAMMAD, Rehan

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**General Dental Council:** Andrew Molloy, counsel  
Instructed by Harriet Goodhew, ILAS

**Appellant:** Present  
Not represented

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**Outcome:** Appeal dismissed

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**Committee members:** Clive Powell (Lay) (Chair)  
Caroline Ross (Dental Care Professional)  
Sukhninder Sandhar (Dentist)

**Legal Adviser:** Tehniat Watson

**Professional Adviser:** Malcolm Smith

**Committee Secretary:** Gareth Llewellyn

Mr Muhammad

1. You are in attendance at this appeal hearing before the Registration Appeals Committee (RAC). You are not represented. Andrew Molloy of counsel, instructed by Harriet Goodhew of the General Dental Council's (GDC's) In-House Legal Advisory Service, appears for the GDC.

### **Purpose of hearing**

2. This appeal hearing has been convened in accordance with the General Dental Council (Registration Appeals) Rules 2006 ('the Appeal Rules'), pursuant to Section 36J and Schedule 4A of the Dentists Act 1984 (as amended) ('the Act'). The purpose of the hearing is to consider your appeal against the decision taken by the Registrar not to grant your application for entry to the register as a dental therapist.

### **Background to the appeal**

3. Your application for registration as a dental therapist was received by the GDC in January 2023.
4. A Registration Assessment Panel ('the Panel') considered your application on 19 September 2023 and determined that you had not demonstrated that you have the requisite knowledge and skill to be registered as a dental therapist. These requirements derive from Section 36C (4) and (5) of the Act as in force at the time of your application. The Panel identified a number of deficiencies in your knowledge and skill across your primary dental qualification, your professional experience and your additional training. Accordingly, the Panel recommended that your application for registration as a dental therapist be refused.
5. You asked for your application to be reassessed, and you provided further documentation in support of your renewed application. A second Panel reassessed your application on 13 February 2025. The Panel determined that you had not demonstrated that you had the requisite skill and knowledge to be registered as a dental therapist.
6. In March 2025 you appealed against the Registrar's decision to refuse your application for registration. Your appeal has led to today's hearing.

### **Evidence**

7. In considering this appeal the Committee has considered all the evidence provided to it, including the oral evidence that you gave and the documentary evidence that you submitted in support of your appeal.
8. In your oral evidence you stated that you have previously submitted sufficient evidence to demonstrate that you do, in fact, possess the requisite knowledge and skill for registration as a dental therapist. You stated that you qualified as a dentist in Pakistan, and that it is unfair for the GDC to have refused your application for registration as a dental therapist. You also expressed your dissatisfaction with the delays that you have experienced with the GDC's consideration of your application, and the consequences that these delays have had for your gathering of professional knowledge.
9. In your oral evidence, and more particularly in response to the questions asked of you by the Professional Adviser, you described the content and nature of your undergraduate dentist studies in Pakistan, which included a one-year internship. You described then owning a dental practice in Pakistan for a period of eight to nine months, at which you practised as a

general dental practitioner. You also answered questions about your knowledge and experience of specific areas of practice, including periodontal care and treatment, restorations and anaesthesia. You stated that you are currently working in the UK as a trainee dental nurse in a full-time capacity, and you described the knowledge and experience that you have acquired as part of such employment, including your understanding of topics such as scope of practice and record-keeping. You described assisting and observing specialist dentists and a dental hygienist, including asking questions, and attending monthly practice meetings, as part of your current employment as a trainee dental nurse. You also described the continuing professional development (CPD) that you continue to undertake, which has not included practical hands-on courses. You described that you wish to pursue registration as a dental therapist with a view to ultimately achieving registration with the GDC as a dentist, more particularly by way of the overseas registration examination (ORE).

### **Summary of submissions**

10. Mr Molloy on behalf of the GDC stated that its position is that you are not eligible for registration as a dental therapist and that, accordingly, your appeal should be dismissed. The GDC predicates its position on the conclusions of the two Panels as referred to above.
11. You reiterated your position as referred to above, namely that you possess the requisite knowledge and skill for registration as a dental therapist.

### **Committee's consideration**

12. The Committee has taken into account the evidence provided to it, as well as the submissions made by Mr Molloy on behalf of the GDC and those made by you. The Committee has accepted the advice given in the hearing by the Legal Adviser and the Professional Adviser.
13. The Professional Adviser, amongst other advice, advised the Committee that your dental qualification in Pakistan is, in effect, equivalent to that of a Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) degree in the UK.
14. The Legal Adviser, amongst other advice, advised the Committee that you bear the burden of demonstrating that your name should be entered on to the register as a dental therapist.
15. The Committee's powers when considering such appeals are set out at paragraph 4 (8) of Schedule 4A of the Act. The Committee may, in short, decide to dismiss the appeal, allow the appeal and thereby quash the decision appealed against, substitute for the decision appealed against any other decision that the Registrar could have made, or remit the case to the Registrar for disposal in accordance with any directions that it may wish to give.
16. In determining your appeal the Committee has considered whether you have demonstrated that you have the necessary knowledge and skill to register as a dental therapist in the UK, having taken into account all of your dental qualifications, knowledge and experience, however and wherever required.

### **Committee's decision**

17. The Committee has determined to dismiss your appeal.
18. The Committee is not satisfied that you have demonstrated that you possess the requisite skill and knowledge to be registered as a dental therapist. The Committee took note of the evidence of CPD that you have provided, and notes that this learning appears to have been completed in the period of 2022 to 2024. The Committee considers that this CPD is not

sufficient to address the potential deskilling that can arise following qualification. The Committee also considers that the content and nature of this CPD is not sufficient to demonstrate that you have the requisite knowledge and skill. The Committee considers that you have not demonstrated that you have addressed the learning outcomes identified by the previous panels. Whilst you have provided some evidence in support of you possessing the requisite knowledge and skill, the Committee, having taken all of the written and oral evidence presented to it into consideration, identified some shortcomings in your knowledge of the role of dental therapist. This includes in relation to local anaesthesia, patient group directives (PGDs), scope of practice, non-surgical periodontal treatment and in particular root surface debridement, restorative practice and in not having observed a dental therapist working in a clinical setting.

19. The Committee has therefore determined to dismiss your appeal against the decision of the Registrar to refuse entry to the register as a dental therapist.

### **Right of appeal**

20. You may appeal against this decision to the relevant court in accordance with paragraph (6) of Schedule 4A to the Act.
21. That concludes this determination.