

**Registrations Appeal Committee
Registrations Appeal Hearing****17 October 2025****Name:** BARAKAT, Shimaa Ahmed Mohamed Ali**Contact number:** CAS- 211228-F5S2W8

General Dental Council: Ms Amy Woolfson, Counsel
Instructed by IHLPS**Appellant:** Present
Represented by Deacon Joice James Pallickamyilil, lay

Decision: Appeal dismissed

Committee members: Martin Isherwood (Chair, Dental Care Professional member)
Gillian Jones (Dentist member)
Jayne Hilderley (Lay member)**Legal adviser:** Charles Apthorp**Professional adviser:** Bev Littlemore**Committee Secretary:** Sara Page

1. This Registrations Appeal Committee (RAC) has convened in accordance with the '*General Dental Council (Registration Appeals) Rules 2006*' ('the Appeal Rules'), pursuant to 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 GDC's Registrar to your application for entry to the register as a dental hygienist and dental therapist.
2. 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.
3. You were present at the hearing and represented by Deacon Joice James Pallickamyilil, lay representative.
4. Ms Amy Woolfson, Counsel, appeared as case presenter on behalf of the GDC.

Background

5. You first registered with the GDC on 4 June 2025 with the title dental nurse, having been awarded the National Diploma in Dental Nursing NEBDN in 2024.
6. You submitted application forms for registration as a dental hygienist and dental therapist on 22 December 2022. The GDC acknowledged receipt of your application form and explained that the GDC required separate applications for each dental care professional title applied for. The GDC requested you submit an entirely new and separate application form for one title, notwithstanding the fact that you had paid for two applications already. The GDC accepted your single application for the purposes of processing your applications under the statutory framework in place at the time the application was submitted.
7. The GDC additionally set out that upon review of the application, it had been noted that many other aspects of the application were incomplete, and you were asked to provide updated copies of the requested documents.
8. On 23 April 2024, the GDC notified you that your application was now ready to be assessed by the independent Registration Assessment Panel in July 2024.

First assessment of application and decision

9. Three assessors formed a Registration Assessment Panel ("the Panel") on 18 July 2024 and conducted an assessment of your application. Having considered both applications, the Panel did not recommend entry onto the register, as the evidence provided by you did not demonstrate that you possessed the requisite knowledge and skill to be eligible for registration as a dental hygienist and/or dental therapist.
10. The Panel had identified a number of learning outcomes as not having been covered as part of your training or professional experience to allow for registration with the GDC.
11. The GDC wrote to you advising that should you have any new or additional information which would address the deficiencies identified by the Panel, you could submit these documents within 28 days of the letter. The letter also advised you of your right to appeal the decision.

12. Upon receipt of the outcome letters, you emailed the GDC on 5 August 2024 seeking clarification on the additional evidence requested by the Panel, such as the nature of the CPD that should be completed and why further self-reflections were being requested.
13. Thereafter, you submitted further documentation in support of your application.

Second Assessment of application and decision

14. Three assessors formed a Panel on 16 December 2024 and conducted an assessment of your updated application. The Panel considered the documents provided and again, did not recommend entry onto the register as the evidence provided by you did not demonstrate that you possessed the requisite knowledge and skill to be eligible for registration as a dental hygienist and/or dental therapist.
15. The Panel requested that the GDC check with you prior to sending out the decision outcome letters, whether you had recent experience outside of the references you had provided. As such, the GDC emailed you on 3 February 2025 enquiring whether you had any additional recent experience of working in the capacity of a dentist, that she could provide a professional reference for.
16. You responded that same day, advising that you did have more recent clinical work experience as a dentist, during the winter of 2024/2025 and confirmed that she could provide evidence of the same. Your referee had been contacted, and the reference would be emailed.
17. On 26 March 2025, the Registration caseworker emailed the Assessors asking them to assess the updated professional references that had been provided and determine whether they fulfilled the learning outcomes that were previously deemed as not having been met, but if not, state what further evidence was required from the applicant to grant their registration.
18. Three assessors conducted a further assessment of your application, including the updated professional references you had provided. Having considered the application and additional references, all three assessors did not recommend entry onto the register, as the evidence provided by you did not demonstrate that you possessed the requisite knowledge and skill to be eligible for registration as a dental hygienist and/or dental therapist.
19. The GDC relied on the recommendation of the Panel and wrote to you on 3 April 2025 with the outcome of the assessment. The GDC confirmed that the Panel had identified a number of learning outcomes as not having been covered as part of your training or professional experience to allow for registration with the GDC.
20. The letters advised that from 8 March 2023 the GDC was no longer possible to rely on an overseas diploma in dentistry to support an application for registration as a dental care professional in the UK. As your reassessment had been unsuccessful, you were no longer able to apply for registration as a dental hygienist and/or dental therapist via this registration route. The letters also advised of your right to appeal the registration refusal decisions.

Notice of Appeal

21. On 1 May 2025, the GDC received a Notice of Appeal ("NOA") from you in which you stated that you were appealing the GDC's decision not to register you as a dental hygienist and/or dental therapist.
22. You stated that, to your knowledge, the GDC does not have a published policy outlining a specific minimum duration of clinical experience required to demonstrate competency.

Therefore, refusing an application based on an unwritten or unpublished rule regarding the length of clinical experience is unfair.

Evidence

23. The Committee was provided with a number of bundles, Exhibits 1 – 8, and was assisted by oral evidence provided by you under affirmation during the course of the appeal hearing.

Submissions

24. In its case summary, the GDC stated that two separate Panels assessed your qualification and the supporting documentation provided but continued to have concerns that a number of learning outcomes had not been covered or met. The GDC stated that you are not eligible for registration as a dental hygienist and/or dental therapist as you have not demonstrated that you possess the requisite knowledge and skill under section 36C(4) of the Act.
25. Ms Woolfson, on behalf of the GDC, referred the Committee to the additional documentation you have provided for the purposes of today's appeal hearing, including the additional CPD evidence. Having considered all the documentary evidence and the answers provided by you in your oral evidence, she submitted that it still does not sufficiently address the outstanding areas of competency outlined by the Panel and that, despite the additional documentation provided, you are still not eligible to join the register.
26. Dn Pallickamyailil, on your behalf, referred the Committee to the reference provided by your previous employer in which it states that you are a competent practitioner, and submitted that the previously identified learning outcomes have been carried out by you. He stated that your completion of the hands-on periodontal course addresses one of the learning outcomes identified by the Panel and it was evident from the documents you submitted that you are committed to undertaking your CPD. Dn Pallickamyailil told the Committee that in working in the United Kingdom as a dental nurse, you have the opportunity on a daily basis to work with dentists and observe them, to understand how the system in the UK works, and is a great opportunity to understand the rules, regulations, and scope of practice of the dental team. He submitted that as a dental professional, you have provided your commitment to refreshing your skills by returning to your country of origin on a yearly basis to practise as a dentist to ensure your practical standards are always up to date.
27. In addressing the deficient areas of your skills and knowledge identified by the Panel, Dn Pallickamyailil submitted that you have explained in detail about how each and every learning outcome has been addressed and to consider that you answered correctly about how you are competent in each area identified as deficient.

Committee's decision and reasons

28. In coming to its decision, the Committee considered all the evidence before it today. It took account of the submissions made by both parties and accepted the advice of the Legal Adviser. The Committee was also assisted by the Professional Adviser, Ms Littlemore, who questioned you in relation to your clinical experience.
29. The Committee bore in mind that the burden was on you to satisfy it that you have the requisite knowledge and skill required by section 36C(4) of the Dentists Act (Matter C) for registration as a dental therapist and/or dental hygienist. The Committee also remained mindful of the overarching statutory objective of the GDC and its task in assessing whether you would be a safe and competent practitioner under either title.

30. In the assessment of the second Panel, nine learning outcomes were identified as being insufficiently demonstrated in relation to your dental hygienist application and 13 learning outcomes in relation to your application as a dental therapist.
31. In your oral evidence, you went through each of the learning outcomes identified by the Panel and detailed your knowledge in each of those areas. Whilst the Committee accepted that you were clearly very knowledgeable in many areas of dental practice, knowledge was not a substitute for clinical experience.
32. In its consideration of your clinical experience, the Committee noted that you have been practising as a dental nurse in the UK since September 2022 and working as a dentist in Egypt between June 2012 and May 2014, with additional periods of practice of approximately one month each year since 2017.
33. You provided professional references, from your employer in Egypt and from your current employer in the UK where you are currently working as a dental nurse. The references spoke highly of your competency in your dental roles. However, whilst the Committee took account of the positive references, it was not provided with any evidence of the range of how your clinical experience was monitored. Examples of which may have included audits of treatments provided, case studies undertaken and reflective writings addressing your skills and learning.
34. Notwithstanding this, the Committee took into account that you have only worked approximately one month a year since 2017. This, it concluded, was insufficient to demonstrate an adequate level of quality assured and monitored clinical experience for the roles of dental hygienist and/or dental therapist in the UK.
35. Having considered all the evidence provided, both documentary and oral, the Committee was not satisfied that you have sufficiently addressed all the learning outcomes in relation to a dental hygienist and/or dental therapist that were identified as deficient by the second Panel.
36. The Committee bore in mind the GDC's overarching objective, which includes the protection of the public and the maintenance of public confidence in the dental professions. The Committee was not satisfied that you have been able to sufficiently demonstrate that you would be able to practise safely and effectively as a dental hygienist and/or dental therapist in the UK.
37. In all the circumstances, the Committee determined to refuse your appeal for registration on to the Register as either a dental hygienist and/or a dental therapist.
38. This will be confirmed to you in writing.
39. That concludes this determination.