

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

13 February 2026

Name: RODRIGUES ARAUJO, Carolina

Contact number: 11365245

Case number: CAS-212427-N0R4V0

General Dental Council: Lauren Fullerton, Counsel
Instructed by Jack Chaffey, IHLPS

Registrant: Present
Unrepresented

Outcome: Appeal accepted
Remitted back to the Registrar in relation to Matter D

Committee members: Jacky Hart (Dental Care Professional) (Chair)
David Brown (Lay)
Rose Thomas (Dentist)

Legal adviser: Nicola Gordelier

Professional Adviser: John Darby

Committee Secretary: Jenny Hazell

Mrs Rodrigues Araujo,

1. This is a hearing before the Registration Appeals Committee. The hearing is being conducted remotely by Microsoft Teams video-link. The hearing is being held in accordance with the terms of the General Dental Council (GDC) (Registration Appeals) Rules Order of Council 2006, pursuant to section 36J and Schedule 4A of the Dentists Act 1984 (as amended) (the Act).

2. The purpose of this hearing has been for the Committee to consider your appeal against the decision of the Registrar of the GDC, to refuse your application for registration in the Dental Care Professionals Register ('the DCP Register') as a dental therapist. You are present at these proceedings and are representing yourself. Ms Lauren Fullerton, Counsel, appears on behalf of the GDC.

Legal framework and background

3. 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 16 January 2026. You submitted your application for registration as a dental therapist in March 2023. Your application for registration as a dental therapist is made under section 36C of the Act. You seek to rely on your Diploma in Dentistry from Federal University of Bahia, Brazil. You seek to demonstrate that you are suitable for registration as a dental therapist by satisfying the Registrar of matters C and D. The GDC's position is that the only matter under consideration at this appeal is whether you possess the requisite knowledge and skill to practise as a dental therapist by virtue of this qualification, granted by an institution outside the United Kingdom (matter C).

First Panel assessment of application

4. Three assessors formed a Registration Assessment Panel (the Panel) on 11 March 2025 and conducted an assessment of your application. Your application as a dental therapist was considered under the Joint Eligibility Recommendation Form for entry to the GDC's DCP Register under Matters C and D, in accordance with the provisions of Section 36C(4), (5) and (6) of the Act. The Panel recommended that you be refused registration 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 therapist.

5. The GDC relied on the Panel's recommendation and made the decision to refuse your application for registration as a dental therapist in the dental care professionals register. You were notified of this decision on 8 April 2025. The letter advised you that you were not eligible for registration as a dental therapist as you had not satisfied the Registrar that you had the requisite knowledge and skill. The letter 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 Council.

6. You were advised that if you had any new or additional information that would address the deficiencies found in your training, you could apply for a new assessment. You were informed of your right of appeal.

7. Between 4 May 2025 and 24 July 2025, there was correspondence between you and the GDC in respect of further information to be provided in support of your application.

Reassessment of application by second Panel

8. Three assessors formed a Panel on 09 July 2025 and conducted an assessment of your updated application. The Panel was of the opinion, having taken into account your relevant qualifications and all relevant knowledge and experience acquired, that you were not currently eligible for registration as a dental therapist. This was on the basis that it was not satisfied that you possessed the requisite knowledge and skill to practice as a dental therapist.

9. You were notified of the Council's decision on 17 July 2025. The letter confirmed that the Panel had identified a number of learning outcomes as not having been met in respect of your application which were as follows:

- DTher 1.2.1 Recognise the importance of and carry out an appropriate systematic intra- and extra-oral clinical examination - To meet this outcome please provide a recent professional reference confirming clinical competency on intra and extra-oral examinations.
- DTher 1.5.2 Obtain valid consent from the patient before starting treatment, explaining all the relevant options and possible costs - To meet this outcome please provide a recent professional reference confirming clinical competency on taking valid informed consent.
- DTher 1.7.3 Recognise the need to monitor and review treatment outcomes - To meet this outcome please provide a recent professional reference confirming clinical competency on monitoring treatment outcomes, recall patients/patient outcomes, or a self-reflection on (CG19) Dental checks: intervals between oral health reviews guidelines.
- DTher 1.8.1 Recognise the risks around the clinical environment and manage these in a safe and efficient manner – To meet this outcome, you were requested to provide a recent clinical professional reference to demonstrate this learning outcome
- DTher 1.10.1 Recognise the responsibilities of the dental team as an access point to and from wider healthcare – To meet this outcome, you were requested to provide a recent clinical professional reference to demonstrate this learning outcome.
- DTher 1.10.5 Assess the results of treatment and provide appropriate aftercare and ongoing preventive advice - To meet this outcome please provide a recent professional reference confirming clinical competency on aftercare or ongoing advice.
- DTher 1.11.1 Assess and manage the health of periodontal and soft tissues taking into account risk and lifestyle factors - To meet this outcome please provide a recent professional reference confirming clinical competency on managing periodontal health in line with 2017 periodontics classification and the British Society of Periodontology treatment guidelines of periodontitis.
- DTher 1.11.2 Explain and take account of the impact of the patient's periodontal and general health on the overall treatment plan and outcomes - To meet this outcome please provide a self-reflection on Healthy Gums do matter and good practitioners guide to periodontology.
- DTher 1.11.3 Undertake non-surgical treatments, under prescription where appropriate, to remove hard and soft deposits and stains using a range of methods - To meet this outcome please provide a recent professional reference confirming clinical competency on a range of hand scaling and ultrasonic use.

- DTher 1.11.4 Monitor and record changes in periodontal health as necessary using appropriate indices - To meet this outcome please provide a recent professional reference confirming clinical competency on monitoring and recording periodontal health changes using indices, Basic Periodontal Examination and/or British Society of Periodontology.
- DTher 1.11.6 Recognise and appropriately manage the complications associated with periodontal therapy - To meet this outcome please provide a recent professional reference confirming clinical competency on managing complications of periodontal therapy.
- DTher 1.11.7 Recognise the role of surgical management of periodontal diseases, apply antimicrobials, and provide appropriate patient care - To meet this outcome please provide a recent professional reference confirming clinical competency on use of antimicrobial agents.
- DTher 1.12.2 Extract erupted deciduous teeth under local anaesthetic - To meet this outcome please provide a recent professional reference confirming clinical competency.
- DTher 1.14.1 Assess and manage caries, occlusion, and tooth wear, and, where appropriate, restore the dentition using the principle of minimal intervention, maintaining function and aesthetics - To meet this outcome please provide a recent professional reference confirming clinical competency on working via minimal intervention and managing basic erosional wear and tooth surface loss.
- DTher 1.14.3 Provide pulp treatment for deciduous teeth - To meet this outcome please provide a recent professional reference confirming clinical competency.
- DTher 1.14.4 Restore deciduous teeth using preformed crowns - To meet this outcome please provide a recent professional reference confirming clinical competency on the use of pre-formed crowns.
- DTher 7.0 Ethical and legal - Recognise and act upon the legal and ethical responsibilities involved in protecting and promoting the health of individual patients (GDC Standards). Act without discrimination and show respect for patients, colleagues and peers and the general public. Take responsibility for and act to raise concerns about your own or others' health, behaviour or professional performance as described in The Principles of Raising Concerns. – To meet this outcome, you were requested to provide CPD evidence on Legal and Ethical.

Notice of Appeal

10. On 12 August 2025 the GDC received a Notice of Appeal ('NOA') from you. You attached two professional references. In support of your appeal you rely on the following:

- You have sufficient knowledge and skill to work as a dental therapist.
- The two professional reference letters from your practice in Brazil demonstrate the recency of your experience, and specifically address the key learning outcomes said to be deficient in the panel form and decision letter.
- The Panel did not give sufficient weight to the professional references, and erred in the conclusion that there was insufficient evidence of those learning outcomes in the application.

- You submit that your knowledge, skills and experience are comparable with other applicants you know have been successfully registered with the GDC.
- Your application contains evidence that was submitted as directed by the GDC, and includes all relevant academic transcripts, course syllabi, CPDs, self-reflections, letters of professional reference, and supporting materials.
- You have demonstrated a commitment to dentistry through completion of the National Diploma in Dental Nursing (NEBDN) and undertaking work in the UK as a trainee Dental Nurse and other employment.

The Registrar's position

11. The Registrar's position, as set out in its written submissions dated 16 January 2026, is that you must satisfy it that you have the requisite knowledge and skill to practise as a dental therapist. It submitted that two separate Panels assessed your qualification and the information you provided and had concerns that a number of learning outcomes had not been covered or met. The Registrar maintains that you are not eligible for registration as a dental therapist as you have not demonstrated to the GDC that you possess the requisite knowledge and skill under section 36C(4) of the Act. It highlights that the Panel identified a number of deficiencies.

12. The GDC stated that although you have submitted evidence that you have completed the NEBDN, this course is a pathway to registration as a Dental Care Professional - Dental Nurse. You have not sought registration in this title.

13. The Registrar recognises that it is a matter for the Committee to consider all the information before it to determine whether the learning outcomes have been fully covered. The Registrar further sets out that 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 (Matter C).

14. Ms Fullerton confirmed the Registrar's position at the conclusion of all the evidence.

Your position

15. You gave evidence under affirmation. In your oral evidence you set out the training that you undertook as part of your undergraduate studies as a dentist in Brazil. The Committee has heard that your practical work was quality assured at every stage and included the core areas of dentistry that form the basis of the UK syllabus for an undergraduate degree in dentistry. You explained that you were not able to move onto the next module of your undergraduate training until you had passed the current module.

16. You stated that between 2014 and 2020 you worked as an Associate General Dentist in Brazil but also as a Specialist in Oral Surgery and Dental Implants, with over six years of experience of complex surgical procedures within a hospital setting, as well as a wide range of treatments in general dental practice. Your most recent clinical work as a dentist in Brazil was between June to November 2023 when you carried out a range of clinical procedures, including restorations on adults and paediatric patients, extractions of primary teeth, non-surgical periodontal treatment, including oral hygiene instructions and modification of risk factors for dental disease.

17. You referred the Committee to a professional work reference from a dentist, with whom you worked in Brazil from September 2016 to October 2023 as an associate dentist. The letter includes descriptions of clinical cases and directly addresses the deficiencies highlighted in the GDC DCP assessment.

18. In answer to questions from the Professional Adviser and the Committee, you set out your knowledge of a range of dental treatments which a dental therapist carries out including treatment planning, providing appropriate patient advice, periodontal treatment and carrying out direct restorations on primary and secondary teeth. You also outlined your understanding of the scope of practice of a dental therapist.

19. You read out your Personal Statement in support of your appeal. You maintain that you do have the requisite knowledge and skills for registration as a dental therapist.

20. In addition, the Committee heard oral evidence from Dr D, a registered UK dentist, with whom you worked alongside in your capacity as a trainee dental nurse for three years until 2023. Dr D provided evidence of the work carried out in that capacity. He observed that you were well informed with the treatment options, and how you supported him in giving post-operative advice to patients. He described your sterilisation techniques as 'faultless'. He also gave examples of your skills in anticipating appropriate periodontal treatment and providing him with the necessary equipment.

The Committee's decision on your appeal

21. The Committee took account of the submissions made by Ms Fullerton on behalf of the Registrar and your submissions. It accepted the advice of the independent Professional Adviser and that of the independent Legal Adviser present at these proceedings.

22. The Committee considered all the evidence presented to it. This included your detailed statement, bundles of Continuing Professional Development (CPD), your detailed reflections as well as references from professional colleagues. It also had regard to your oral and written evidence as well as the oral evidence of Dr D. The Committee also had regard to the subsequent CPD completed to address the deficiencies in the learning outcomes highlighted by the Panel in the second assessment of your application.

23. 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 Act (Matter C) for registration as a dental therapist. 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 this title.

24. The Committee has had regard to the comprehensive oral answers you provided to the Professional Adviser and to the Committee at this hearing. The Committee was satisfied that you have demonstrated a good knowledge of the skills and experience required to practise as a dental therapist in the UK, including in respect of scope of practice. Further, your oral evidence was supported by that of Dr D, who has observed you working as a dental nurse over a period of some three years. It was Dr D's view that you would be able to appropriately diagnose and treat patients within your scope of practice. He also explained that the two of you would discuss cases with each other and would reflect together on what went well and/or how you might do things differently. Overall, Dr D spoke positively of your skills working in a large multi-disciplinary team and said that you were highly valued by the team.

25. The Committee considers that some of the skills you have demonstrated in your capacity as a dental nurse would be transferrable in the role of a dental therapist, such as providing patient advice on certain aspects of their treatment. The Committee was reassured by the answer you gave in your oral evidence that you would not embark on any treatment, even if it was within a dental therapist's scope of practice, that you did not feel confident you could carry out (or alternatively, that you would ask another dental colleague who was more experienced to help and mentor you).

26. The Committee also took account that there has been a gap of several years since you last practiced in November 2023. However, given the extent of your knowledge as a qualified dentist in Brazil as well as the fact that you have been working as a dental nurse in the UK, the Committee is satisfied that you do possess the necessary knowledge and skills to practise as a dental therapist in the UK. The Committee took heed of the months you worked as a dentist in Brazil in 2023 and the number of patients (more than 200) you treated as well as the range of treatments you carried out.

27. Having considered all the evidence, the Committee was satisfied that you have sufficiently addressed all the learning outcomes in relation to a dental therapist that were identified as deficient by the second assessment Panel. In all the circumstances, Committee concluded that you would be a safe practitioner if registered as a dental therapist. Accordingly, it was the conclusion of the Committee that you have demonstrated that you have the requisite knowledge and skill to be registered under the title of a dental therapist in accordance with Section 36C(4) of the Act (Matter C). The Committee therefore determined to allow your appeal.

Remittal back to the Registrar in relation to Matter D only

28. The only matters for consideration at this appeal were in relation to your knowledge and skills for registration as a dental therapist. The Committee has determined that you do have the requisite knowledge and skills (Matter C) to be registered under that title and has granted your appeal on this basis.

29. However, there remain the outstanding requirements for registration under Matter D, which the Committee understands, may not have been fully assessed by the GDC's Registrations Department. These are the requirements relating to your identity, whether you have the necessary knowledge of English, are of good character and are of good health.

30. In the circumstances, the Committee remits your case to the Registrar to dispose of in accordance with its direction that:

- a. You are entitled to be entered onto the DCP Register as a dental therapist subject to the GDC having assessed you as suitable for registration under Matter D.

31. That concludes this determination.