

PUBLIC HEARING

Professional Conduct Committee Review Hearing

14 August 2026

Name: SOUHANI, Ali Mohammad

Registration number: 74217

Case number: CAS-197116-Y8W1Z2

General Dental Council: Peta-Louise Bagott, Counsel
Instructed by Amy Jones

Registrant: Not Present
Unrepresented

Fitness to practise: Impaired by reason of misconduct

Outcome: Suspended indefinitely

Committee members: Gregory Heath (Chair) (Dentist Member)
James Hurden (Lay Member)
Donna Lightbody (Dental Care Professional Member)

Legal adviser: Paul Moulder

Committee Secretary: Jenny Hazell

1. This is a hearing before the Professional Conduct Committee (PCC) pursuant to Section 27C of the Dentists Act 1984 (as amended) ('the Act'). The hearing is being conducted remotely via Microsoft Teams.

2. Mr Souhani is not present and is not represented. Ms Bagott, Counsel, appear on behalf of the General Dental Council (GDC).

Decision on service of Notice of Hearing

3. In the absence of Mr Souhani, the Committee first considered whether the Notice of Hearing ('the Notice') has been served on Mr Souhani in accordance with Rules 28 and 65 of the 'General Dental Council (Fitness to Practise) Rules Order of Council 2006' ('the Rules'). Ms Bagott referred the Committee to the Notice dated 9 July 2026, as well as the relevant documents contained in the hearing bundle. She submitted that in light of those documents, the GDC had complied with Rules 28 and 65 and Section 50A of the Act.

4. The Committee has had regard to the hearing bundle which contained a copy of the Notice dated 9 July 2026. The Committee is satisfied that the address shown on the Notice is the same address as that contained by the GDC as Mr Souhani's registered address. The Committee is further satisfied that the Notice contains the required information relating to today's review hearing, including the time and date of the hearing, as well as the reasons for the hearing. The Notice set out that the GDC recommended that Mr Souhani attend the hearing and advised him that if he chose not to attend the review hearing, the Committee may proceed and make a decision in his absence.

5. The Royal Mail 'Track and Trace' receipt confirmed that the item was delivered to Mr Souhani's registered address on 10 July 2026 and was signed for by 'ALI SOUHANI'.

6. The Committee also noted that the Notice was sent to Mr Souhani's registered address by first class post and secure email on 9 July 2026. There is a receipt which confirms that the Notice was downloaded on 15 July 2026.

7. In light of the information available, the Committee is satisfied that the Notice had been sent to Mr Souhani's registered address by registered post and within 28 days of today's hearing, in accordance with Rules 28 and 65 and Section 50A of the Act.

Decision on whether to proceed in the absence of Mr Souhani

8. The Committee next considered whether to exercise its discretion under Rule 54 to proceed with the hearing in the absence of Mr Souhani. Ms Bagott submitted that all reasonable efforts have been made by the GDC to send the Notice to Mr Souhani. She referred to Mr Souhani's history of non-engagement at these proceedings since August 2023. Mr Souhani has provided no reason for his non-attendance and he has not requested an adjournment to seek legal representation or any other reason. Ms Bagott submitted there is no indication that an adjournment would secure his attendance at a later date.

9. Ms Bagott submitted that there are public protection and public interest considerations in reviewing the order today before its expiry on 13 September 2026 in light of the existing clinical concerns. Ms Bagott set out that if the order was not reviewed before its expiry, the order would lapse, which would mean that Mr Souhani would be free to practise unrestricted. It was the GDC's position that there are compelling public interest reasons in proceeding with today's hearing in the absence of Mr Souhani.

10. The Committee has taken into account the submissions made by Ms Bagott. It has accepted the advice of the Legal Adviser.

11. The Committee is satisfied that Mr Souhani is aware of today's hearing in light of him having signed for the Notice on 10 July 2026 and downloaded the same document on 15 July 2026. Mr Souhani has not responded to the Notice regarding his attendance at this hearing, despite being asked to notify the GDC of his intentions by 17 July 2026. He has also not provided the GDC with any written submissions and/or documents, although it was open to him to do so by 7 August 2026.

12. The Committee is aware that the last time Mr Souhani attended a PCC hearing was in October 2022. Since then, he has not attended any of the review hearings. Further, he has not engaged with the GDC or provided any information as to his current circumstances. There is nothing before the Committee to suggest that adjourning this hearing would secure his attendance at a later date. The Committee has concluded that Mr Souhani has voluntarily absented himself from today's hearing.

13. The Committee considers that there are public protection and public interest considerations in this case in light of the ongoing clinical concerns and the absence of any information from the Registrant. In all these circumstances, the Committee determined that it was fair and in the public interest to proceed with the hearing in the absence of Mr Souhani.

Background

Initial hearing October 2022

14. This is the fourth review of a substantive order initially imposed by the PCC in October 2022. At that initial hearing the PCC reached a number of findings against Mr Souhani in relation to his treatment of Patient 1 in April 2021. This included Patient 1's UR8 being left partially in situ following Mr Souhani's attempt to extract it. Mr Souhani also informed Patient 1 that he had successfully extracted her UR8 on the basis that he genuinely believed at that time that he had extracted her UR8. The PCC found Mr Souhani's conduct in this regard was misleading and lacking in integrity. It determined that the facts found proved amount to misconduct.

15. The PCC determined that Mr Souhani's fitness to practise was currently impaired by reason of misconduct. In reaching its decision, the PCC noted that the remedial steps taken by Mr Souhani were still ongoing, with limited evidence that they had been embedded into his practice over a sustained period of time. It further had regard to Mr Souhani's fitness to practise history in relation to similar matters, and concluded that the risk of repetition remained.

16. The PCC considered that the clinical concerns were potentially remediable and that Mr Souhani had indicated that he would be willing to comply with conditions. It directed that Mr Souhani's registration be subject to conditional registration for a period of 12 months with a review hearing. The Committee was satisfied that this period was appropriate and proportionate to enable Mr Souhani to consolidate his remediation.

First review hearing August 2023

17. An early review was held on 14 August 2023 at the request of the GDC. Mr Souhani did not attend that review hearing and he was not represented. The GDC submitted that Mr Souhani had failed to comply with the conditions on his registration. The PCC noted from Mr Souhani's correspondence with the GDC that he had provided mixed information as to his intentions to practise. He also sought further information regarding voluntary removal from the Register.

18. The PCC determined that Mr Souhani had failed to comply with this conditional registration and failed to provide evidence of remediation of the previous PCDC's concerns. It concluded that Mr Souhani's fitness to practise remained impaired on the grounds of public protection and in the wider public interest.

19. However, given Mr Souhani's failure to comply with conditions, the PCC concluded that they were no longer sufficient or appropriate. It therefore directed that a suspension order, with immediate effect, was the appropriate sanction. The order was for a period of 12 months. The PCC considered that 12 months would be sufficient to allow Mr Souhani sufficient time to either demonstrate that he has gained the requisite insight and demonstrated remediation of his previous failings and engage meaningfully with the GDC, or to pursue his intention to remove himself from the Register.

Second review hearing August 2024

20. The PCC reviewed the suspension order on 2 August 2024. Mr Souhani was not present or represented at that hearing. The PCC noted that Mr Souhani had not provided any submissions for the Committee's consideration or engaged with the GDC.

21. The PCC considered that Mr Souhani had failed to demonstrate that he had sufficiently developed his insight and remediated any of his previous failings. It was satisfied that should Mr Souhani be permitted to practise without restriction, he would pose a real risk of harm to patients. It concluded that Mr Souhani's fitness to practise remained impaired by reason of misconduct on the ground of public protection and on the ground of the public interest.

22. In the PCC's judgement, given that Mr Souhani had failed to provide any evidence of insight or remediation since the imposition of the suspension order, the PCC concluded that conditional registration would be neither workable nor practical. It therefore directed that Mr Souhani's registration be suspended for a period of 12 months

Third hearing August 2025

23. The PCC reviewed the order on 1 August 2025. Mr Souhani was not present or represented at that hearing. The GDC's case presenter informed the PCC that Mr Souhani had not submitted an application for Voluntary Removal from the Register.

24. The PCC noted that Mr Souhani had not provided any submissions for the Committee's consideration or engaged with the GDC. There was therefore no evidence of insight or remediation of the clinical matters identified by the PCC at the initial hearing. The PCC determined that Mr Souhani's fitness to practise remained impaired on the grounds of public protection and the public interest. It directed that Mr Souhani's registration be suspended for 12 months, with a review hearing to take place before the expiry of the order.

Today's review hearing

25. This hearing was convened to review the current suspension order, which is due to expire on 13 September 2026. The Committee has comprehensively reviewed the suspension order. In so doing, it has had regard to the GDC's bundle of documents. It noted that Mr Souhani has not engaged with the GDC and he has not provided any of the documents suggested by the PCC.

26. Ms Bagott submitted that there is no information or engagement from Mr Souhani as to the steps he has taken to address the clinical concerns identified by the PCC in October 2022. In the absence of this information there therefore remained a risk of repetition of those matters. Ms Bagott also made the point that it was likely that Mr Souhani would be deskilled in the clinical matters since his registration was suspended in August 2022. The GDC's position is that Mr Souhani's fitness to practise by reason of his misconduct remains impaired, both in relation to the protection of the public and the wider public interest.

27. Ms Bagott submitted that in light of Mr Souhani's lack of engagement with the GDC and the absence of any evidence of insight or remediation, the appropriate sanction is to direct that Mr Souhani's registration be suspended indefinitely. She submitted that Mr Souhani's registration will, on the date that the direction for indefinite suspension takes effect, have been suspended for two

years (having been suspended since 14 August 2023) and it is made not more than two months before the date on which the period would otherwise expire (13 September 2026).

Decision on current impairment

28. The Committee has firstly considered whether Mr Souhani's fitness to practise remains impaired by reason of his misconduct. In doing so, the Committee exercised its own independent judgement. It has borne in mind that its duty is to consider the public interest, which includes the protection of the public, the maintenance of public confidence in the profession and the declaring and upholding of proper standards of conduct and behaviour.

29. The Committee has accepted the advice of the Legal Adviser. He referred the Committee to paragraphs 302 onwards (under the heading 'Resumed hearings') and paragraphs 317 onwards (under the heading 'Indefinite suspension') of the GDC's "Fitness to Practise: Guidance for the practice committees" (January 2026) (the GDC's Guidance).

30. The Committee notes that the initial PCC in October 2022 considered that Mr Souhani's clinical shortcomings were remediable. However, Mr Souhani has failed to provide any evidence that he has demonstrated sufficient insight and remediated his previous failings, despite being given the opportunity to do so at this and previous review hearings. He has effectively disengaged with the GDC since August 2023. The Committee has no information as to Mr Souhani's present circumstances or indeed any plans regarding a return to dentistry.

31. The Committee considered that in the absence of any evidence of remediation, Mr Souhani continues to pose a real risk to harm to patients should Mr Souhani be permitted to practise without restriction. The Committee was concerned also that there had been a finding of a lack of integrity and the absence of engagement by Mr Souhani provided no reassurance that this fundamental attitudinal issue had been sufficiently remediated. Therefore, the Committee concluded that Mr Souhani's fitness to practise remains impaired by reason of his misconduct on the grounds of public protection.

32. In addition, the Committee determined that an informed member of the public would be shocked and surprised to find that Mr Souhani was permitted to practise without restrictions given his ongoing lack of engagement with the GDC as his regulator and the public protection risks identified. Therefore, the Committee concluded that Mr Souhani's fitness to practise is also impaired on the ground of public interest.

Decision on sanction

33. The Committee considered what, if any, sanction to impose in this case. The Committee was aware of the range of sanctions available to it and that it must consider the sanctions in order from the least serious.

34. The Committee took into account the principle of proportionality, balancing the public interest against Mr Souhani's own interests.

35. The Committee considered whether to terminate the suspension order but concluded that in light of the lack of remediation of the previous concerns, this would not be sufficient to protect the public or uphold the public interest.

36. The Committee has kept in mind Mr Souhani's continual failure to provide any evidence of insight or remediation since the imposition of the suspension order some three years ago. It has also borne in mind Mr Souhani's previous failure to comply with conditional registration. In these circumstances, the Committee concluded that conditional registration would be neither workable nor practical.

37. The Committee next considered whether to extend the direction of suspension or to make a direction that his registration be suspended indefinitely. Mr Souhani has ceased engaging with the GDC since August 2023. He has provided no information as to his current circumstances or his reasons why is not able to remediate his clinical deficiencies which were identified at the initial PCC hearing in October 2022. Given Mr Souhani's continued lack of engagement with the GDC, the Committee has concluded that a further specified period of suspension would be of no benefit. There has been no material change in the circumstances of this case since the last review, and no progress since the suspension order was imposed three years ago. Further, there is no indication that Mr Souhani will start engaging in the process within the foreseeable future. For all these reasons, the Committee decided that an extension of the current order of suspension is no longer appropriate.

38. Accordingly, the Committee directs the indefinite suspension of Mr Souhani's registration in accordance with section 27C(1)(d) of the Act. In making this direction, the Committee is satisfied that the criteria for imposing an indefinite suspension have been met.

39. Unless Mr Souhani exercises his right of appeal, his registration will be suspended indefinitely, either at the expiry of the current suspension order on 13 September 2026, or 28 days from the date that notice of this direction is deemed to have been served upon him, whichever shall later occur. In the event that Mr Souhani exercises his right of appeal, the suspension order currently in place on his registration will remain in force until the resolution of the appeal.

40. Notification of this decision will be served on Mr Souhani in accordance with the Act.

41. That concludes this determination.