

# Lay Council Member, General Dental Council

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### 1. Do I have to be a UK national to apply for this role?

No, you do not have to be a UK national, but you will have to provide evidence of your right to live and work in the UK.

### 2. Is there an upper age limit?

No, there is no upper age limit.

### 3. Can I become a Lay Council Member if I have a full-time job?

Yes, people with full-time jobs are eligible to apply but will need to demonstrate that they can meet the time commitment of this role.

### 4. What are the other eligibility requirements?

You will not be eligible to apply for this role if you are currently:

- Subject to proceedings or have current sanctions against you from any professional regulator, including the General Dental Council.
- Meet any of the disqualification criteria as set out in Section 5 of the General Dental Council (Constitution) Order 2009. These include things like having an unspent conviction for dishonesty or deception, or where you received a prison sentence, and having been declared bankrupt or disqualified from acting as a director. For further details, please see [here](#).

If you remain in any doubt as to your eligibility, please contact us before applying.

### 5. What will the time commitment be for the appointment? Does this include travel and prep time?

We are looking for a candidate with experience suitable to join the Council's Finance and Performance Committee – the appointed Member will generally spend between 15 and 20 days per year preparing for and attending meetings, including Committee meetings.

### 6. There are approximately six Council meetings a year. How much travel is involved?

In usual times, the majority of Council meetings are held in the GDC's offices in central London, with at least one meeting a year in the Birmingham office and one meeting being held in one of the other three UK nations. When circumstances dictate, these meetings may be held virtually.

### 7. Is this a fixed term appointment?

Yes, this is a fixed term appointment for up to four years.

In order to provide stability for the organisation, the Members will be appointed for an initial term of up to four years, and we would ask that candidates are prepared to serve a second term of the same length. Council Members may hold office for a maximum of eight years in any twenty years, usually in two terms.

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Re-appointments can be made at the end of the first period of office, subject to satisfactory performance appraisal and the needs of the Council. However, a degree of change is often sought and there should be no expectation of automatic reappointment.

**8. Is the role remunerated?**

Yes, the roles attract an annual remuneration of £15,000.

**9. Are expenses covered and would I be responsible for booking my own travel?**

Yes, the GDC will meet the cost of reasonable expenses (in accordance with its policy).

**10. Do I need to use a computer?**

Yes, you will be provided with a work device, and we would generally expect our members to be computer literate and to respond to communications via email and to be able to participate in meetings held virtually (via MS Teams or similar). We are, however, able to make reasonable adjustments, if needed.

**11. How much experience are you looking for?**

We are seeking a member who can demonstrate that they meet the essential competencies as a minimum and who can also ideally meet the desirable criteria.

As the appointed member is likely to be asked to join the Council's Finance and Performance Committee, we are particularly interested in candidates with experience in monitoring and scrutinising financial statements and organisational reporting.

We expect the members of Council to have sufficient judgement and integrity to inspire public confidence in our regulation and to hold the respect of the professions we regulate.

**12. Do I require any experience of working in regulation?**

You do not require prior experience of working in regulation, but must be able to demonstrate that you meet the essential experience, knowledge and skills.

**13. Will the GDC seek references prior to appointment**

Yes, the GDC will secure two satisfactory references prior to final interview. These will not be taken without your prior consent at that time. Please refer to the timetable in the Candidate Brief and advise your referees that they will be approached prior to the final interviews.

In addition to candidates completing the self-declaration in the Application Form, further due diligence will also be undertaken should you progress to final stage. This will include (although the list is not exhaustive): Identity verification and right to work, Insolvency check/disqualified directors' check, Professional membership (where applicable), Media risk analysis – review of social media twitter/google/LinkedIn, Registration status check/fitness to practise/conduct status check with a relevant professional regulator, Charity Commission or Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator for removed trustees, roles with or associated to the GDC, Ministerial or NHS Board appointments.

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**14. What is your policy on diversity?**

The GDC is committed to promoting equality of opportunity and values diversity of culture among our Council Members. We strongly encourage applications from all suitably qualified individuals, and we welcome applications from those with protected characteristics. We will seek to ensure that all applicants are treated fairly, with respect and without bias.

You can read our Equality and Diversity strategy [here](#).

**15. Can I speak to anyone before making a formal application?**

Yes, you can speak to our advising consultants at Saxton Bampfylde. Contact details are provided on this website.

**16. How do I apply?**

Detailed instructions are included in the Applicant Pack. If you experience any difficulties, please contact Saxton Bampfylde, whose contact details are included in the pack.