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**The GMC's response to the General Dental Council consultation:
Corporate Strategy 2020-2022: Working with the dental team for public
safety and confidence**

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to your consultation on the GDC's corporate strategy 2020-2022.

Many of the proposals set out in the GDC's strategy align with our ambition to be a more proactive regulator focused on supporting doctors to deliver good medical practice, and therefore we endorse the approach taken here. We have provided some observations on the specific aims of the strategy below.

The GDCs proposed strategic aims

Strategic aim 1 and 3: To operate a regulatory system which protects patients and is fair to registrants, while being cost-effective and proportionate; which begins with education, supports career-long learning, promotes high standards of care and professional conduct and is developed in the light of emerging evidence and experience and; To work with the professions and our partners to ensure that patients and the public are able to raise concerns with the agency best placed to resolve them effectively and without unnecessary delay.

We are supportive of both of these strategic aims, and believe that these also align with our work to develop a more proportionate approach to regulation. Within our 2018-2020 corporate strategy, we express a similar commitment to focus more of our attention on supporting doctors to deliver good medical practice, as opposed to simply intervening when care falls seriously below our standards.. On a practical level, examples of our work in this areas include expanding our Welcome to UK Practice Programme to help doctors new to practice to understand the ethical issues that will affect them, and our work to identify and respond, working collaboratively, to concerns that have been raised with us about the environments

in which doctor's work.. In addition, we are also exploring how we can better use the data we collect to help us support doctors provide good clinical care.

Strategic aim 2: work with the professions and our partners to ensure that patients and the public are able to raise concerns with the agency best placed to resolve them effectively and without unnecessary delay.

We welcome the GDC's proposal to adopt a collaborative approach to their work. We share this aim, and our corporate strategy (strategic aim 2) commits us to working collaboratively with healthcare regulators, stakeholders and patients and the public to deliver our strategic priorities. Our 'Local First' programme is one example of this – for which our key aim is to support the successful management of cases at a local level where they do not need referral to us. Furthermore, effective partnership with providers in the local handling of cases will support the more efficient closure of cases, reduce the damaging effects for doctors of unnecessary referrals and achieve more timely resolution for complaints. .

Strategic aim 4: maintain and develop the regulatory framework

We also support and echo the GDC's call for legislative change, and are similarly pushing for legislative reform to develop a more flexible regulatory framework to meet emerging patient needs. We believe that such reform is critical to meet the increasing demands of a changing healthcare environment and the specific needs of the modern medical professional, patients and the public.

Strategic aim 5: continuing the outcome-led approach called for in the GDC strategic framework and marrying this information with expenditure

We have no comment on this.

Yours faithfully,

Laurel Fine

Regulation Policy Manager