



ROYAL COLLEGE OF
PHYSICIANS AND
SURGEONS OF GLASGOW

CONSULTATION:	Shifting the Balance
ORIGINATING SOURCE:	General Dental Council
CONTRIBUTORS:	Dental Council Members – April 2017
SUBMITTED:	April 2017

Shifting the Balance:
Comments from the Dental Faculty of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow
(RCPSG)

Dental regulation is required to protect patients. The College welcomes the recognition that the GDC needs to re-engage with the profession, realising that the current approach has led to a cumbersome system which has created tensions and mistrust within the profession.

This is a lengthy and ambitious document. Its aims are laudable but will require a significant cultural change whilst incorporating the altered relationship between the dental professions and their patients.

Attempting to rebalance the role of the GDC in its upstream functions is welcomed but these soft powers must be effectively monitored and enforced. Clearly, learning outcomes for undergraduate courses should be able to respond to current evidence, however, this is not the case for some regulatory bodies' requirements so they must also engage. As the GDC wishes to do, RCPSG is developing innovative ways of both engaging with the professions and also provision of accessible, relevant and effective CPD.

The College would of course welcome the opportunity to build partnerships with the GDC and other professional bodies to support education, training and standard setting aspects of this process. RCPSG already works with the dental faculties of the other Royal Colleges of the UK and Ireland to support education, training and assessment.

In recognition of the potential frustration of those making complaints and personal toll the FtP process can have on professionals it would be helpful to aspire to reasonable and reportable timescales, as well as ensuring that complaints are dealt with in the appropriate forum ie locally where possible.

A shift from what is perceived to be a punitive system of regulation to a more supportive one whilst protecting patients is a positive one. This is a strategic document and the College would seek involvement in putting the broad aims into practice in an inclusive framework.

April 2017