

# PRESS RELEASE



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## RESTRUCTURED GDC FACES KEY CHALLENGES, SAYS MDDUS

There are significant challenges facing the General Dental Council after its recent restructuring - which will significantly alter how the profession is policed - warns the Medical and Dental Defence Union of Scotland (MDDUS).

The restructured GDC will have a total of 24 members - made up of 12 lay members, including people with experience in law, education and the NHS; eight dentists; and four dental care professionals.

It is understood that the new Council will be more board-like now that all of the members have been appointed and not elected. The aims of the GDC, however, remain the same; protecting the public, promotion of confidence in registrants, the regulation of healthcare, and assurance of quality of dental education pre-registration in the UK.

MDDUS says that with only eight of the original Council having been reappointed, this has to be seen as a significant difference from the current composition.

Aubrey Craig, head of the dental division of the UK-wide MDDUS says "There are significant challenges facing the new Council in part because it has to work within the same legal constraints as the outgoing one, including legislation imposed in Europe.

"Working in the world of indemnity, complaints to Fitness to Practice have doubled in the past year; revalidation is being introduced and the council will continue to be scrutinised by the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence."

Craig adds: "With the new Council having a smaller number of dentists the post of chair will be a toughly contested position with no guarantee of a dentist at the helm.

"The oft held view of a 'profession policing itself' cannot be held any longer."

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### Note to editors

MDDUS is a medical and dental defence organisation providing access to professional indemnity and expert medico- and dento-legal advice for doctors, dentists and other healthcare professionals throughout the UK. For further information on MDDUS go to [www.mddus.com](http://www.mddus.com).