

# PRESS RELEASE



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## **MDDUS HELPS CUT STRESS ON MEMBERS THROUGH DIFFICULT TIMES**

Dental defence organisation MDDUS has emphasised how it can help alleviate the stress caused to members who suffer lengthy delays in their case being dealt with when they are subject to a referral to the General Dental Council.

The UK-wide MDDUS was reacting to a recent hard hitting report from the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence (CHRE) which criticised the regulatory body over its Fitness to Practise Procedures.

The report highlighted several areas of concern which need to be “urgently addressed” - in particular the length of time taken to progress cases by the GDC, as well as the existing backlog of cases. In some cases it can take up to 18 months for a case to be heard.

Aubrey Craig, head of the dental division at MDDUS, says: “We are frustrated about the time delays. The GDC are well aware of the difficulties we experience and are working to redress these issues.”

MDDUS stresses that any investigation of a registrant by their regulatory body is an extremely worrying time – and that is where the dental defence union can step in to offer assistance and help reduce the stress members are under during the delays.

Craig says: “It is extremely upsetting for any of our members to have their fitness to practise questioned by their regulatory body. All members are supported, both by an adviser and a solicitor, during this difficult time.

“Everyone is fully aware of the extended time taken for cases to be heard, but members are reassured of excellent support from all of the staff at MDDUS”.

Craig stresses that members are requested to contact MDDUS as soon as any correspondence is received from the GDC. “This will allow sufficient time to prepare submissions on behalf of the member, ensuring that they are accurate and clearly represent the views of the member. The member will be fully engaged in the preparation of any response prepared on their behalf.

“MDDUS members will be reassured to know that all consultation documents sent out for a response are considered and replied to in a timeous manner.”

## **Ends**

For further information contact Colin Calder on 0141 616 2677 or 07850 510881.

### **Note to editors**

MDDUS (Medical and Dental Defence Union of Scotland) 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).