



# **Annual Report**

## **2023**

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## **Executive Summary**

The Dental Council is pleased to present its 2023 Annual Report.

2023 was a busy year across all its areas of activities and the council is pleased with the work that it has completed during the year. The Dental Council met seven times in 2023. The main highlights include:

- **Gaps in the legislative framework:** The Dental Council found itself in the public eye on a number of occasions during 2023 which highlighted significant gaps in dental regulation, especially concerning the lack of regulation of dental practices. The council was disappointed at the absence of meaningful engagement in the two years following its submission. The Dental Council welcomed the establishment of a new Oral Health Unit in the Department of Health, and it is pleased that since then, there has been an ongoing and positive engagement with the department on the need to revise the Dentists Act, 1985.
- **New Codes of Practice:** The Dental Council launched three new codes of practice in 2023 on conscious sedation in dentistry, emergency drugs in dentistry and on non-surgical cosmetic procedures. The Dental Council has also revised its guidance on ionising radiation following HIQA becoming the competent authority for matters concerning ionising radiation in health. The Dental Council also signed a memorandum of understanding with HIQA to copper-fasten co-operation between the two organisations.
- **Decision to establish a new RCSI dental school:** The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland is preparing to open a new dental school. The Dental Council has been working with the RCSI project team to ensure that council's requirements regarding undergraduate dental education are being addressed as part of the project. The RCSI is planning for a student intake in 2025.
- **Continuing high demand for registration:** The Dental Council registered 453 dental health care professionals in 2023. Demand to practice dentistry in Ireland has increased significantly after Covid-19 restrictions were removed in 2022.
- **Undergraduate Dental Education:** The council approved the accreditation reports following the visits to the two undergraduate dental programmes in November 2022. The Dental Council is especially concerned that there has been little progress in the plans to either move Cork University Dental School and Hospital to a new site or to refurbish its existing facility. The council views that if this remains unaddressed, it will materially impact on the quality of dental education delivered.
- **Specialist Training:** The Dental Council completed its accreditation reviews of the specialist training programmes in dental public health, special care dentistry, oral surgery and orthodontics in Dublin Dental University Hospital.
- **Memorandum of Understanding with HIQA:** The Dental Council signed a memorandum of understanding with HIQA to allow both organisations co-operate in the regulation of ionising radiation.
- **Auxiliary Dental Education:** The council approved the report of the accreditation visit to Marino College of Further Education/Cathal Brugha FET College and noted that this is a strong and progressive dental nursing programme based upon the national traineeship model
- **Applications under Section 44, 42 and Section 28 of the Dentist Act, 1985:** Section 44 provides for the Dental Council to apply to the High Court to suspend a dentist from the register of dentists if it is in the public interest. In 2022, the council accepted an undertaking from a dentist in lieu of it applying to the High Court to suspend him. In 2023, it approved a significant change to the undertaking. The council decided to take no further action in the case of a dentist convicted of a road traffic offence triable on indictment under Section 42 of the Dentists Act, 1985 as the offence did not impact on the dentist's capacity to practise. The

Dental Council accepted an undertaking from a person not to seek registration again in Ireland, in lieu of it deciding not to register the individual on Section 28 of the Act.

- **Internal Dental Council:** The council approved a new communications policy for engaging with the public and external stakeholders. It also approved increases in the staffing in the registration and finance and administration areas, and the recruitment of a new lead for fitness to practise matters. It is planned to implement this in 2024.

## **Annual Report by Area of Activity**

### **Education and Training**

The Dental Council's Education and Training Committee's main focus in 2023 concerned the approval and implementation of the conditions set out in the reports of the 2022 accreditation visits to two existing dental schools. The most urgent condition arising from the accreditation reports concerned the dental school premises in Cork University Dental School and Hospital. The dental school had originally planned to build and subsequently move to a new facility but this plan was not completed due to delays as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and escalating construction costs. The council had serious concerns around the ongoing suitability of the existing site for dental education. There were no serious concerns arising from the report into the undergraduate dental programme run in the Dublin Dental University Hospital.

The Dental Council commenced working with the Royal College of Surgeons as it develops its plans for its new dental school. It is intended that the main clinical training facility will be in James Connolly Hospital in Blanchardstown and will involve other ancillary training sites. The Dental Council has agreed a roadmap with the RCSI to allow it to move forward to a point where its first full accreditation visit can occur in 2029 in an orderly manner and with a reasonable expectation on both sides that there would be no significant issues that could jeopardise the full approval and ongoing viability of the programme.

The Dental Council, through the Irish Committee for Specialist Training in Dentistry, carried out its five-yearly accreditation of the specialist programmes in dental public health, special care dentistry, oral surgery and orthodontics in Dublin Dental University Hospital. These programme engagements were conducted in parallel during a single institutional visit and were designed to try to minimise the impact on teaching and learning that could otherwise arise during separate visits.

In 2023, the Dental Council worked closely with HIQA as responsibility for ionising radiation in dentistry moved from the council to HIQA. During the year, the council signed a memorandum of understanding with HIQA to allow information to be exchanged by the both organisations. The Dental Council continues to work closely with HIQA in this area and retains the responsibility to prescribe minimum training requirements for those members of the dental team holding responsibilities in this key area

Demand to sit the Dental Council examination for non-EEA qualified dentists continues to outstrip the supply of places. The council is continually reviewing its processes to try and increase the exam's capacity.

The Dental Council has confirmed with the General Dental Council that its standards for undergraduate dental education are still broadly in line with the standards applying when the United Kingdom left the European Union. On this basis, the Dental Council has agreed to roll forward its recognition of UK qualifications to apply to those graduating before 31 December 2024.

### **Auxiliary Dental Workers**

The main focus of the Auxiliary Dental Workers Committee concerned the revision of the schemes for each auxiliary class. Schemes are legal instruments that consolidate the range of regulatory controls and requirements for each auxiliary class. This was the culmination of a significant body of work involving consultations with representative bodies, educators and the Department of Health, as well as mapping the proposal to the recommendations in the national oral health policy. It is planned that the Dental Council will approve the new schemes in 2024 and present them to the Minister for Health for approval

The Dental Council carried out accreditation visits to the dental nursing programmes in Marino Institute of Further Education and in Letterkenny Institute of Technology. The report of the programme in Marino was approved in 2023 and it found that this was a strong programme.

The council engaged with a number of institutions who are considering changing their training model to a traineeship programme. The Dental Council also engaged with a small number of institutions who are considering introducing a dental nursing training programme.

The committee developed a policy and template to support Council’s initial consideration of new auxiliary training programmes. It was agreed to expand the template to provide an opportunity for new programmes to confirm if the proposed development is in response to any particular national strategy or policy.

### Registration

There is significant demand to register as a dental healthcare professional in Ireland. The table below shows the numbers registered over the period from 2021 to 2023. The demand to register in Ireland has increased significantly since the Covid-19 restrictions were permanently lifted in early 2022.

	2021	2022	2023
<b>Registrations</b>			
Dentists	174	257	320
Specialists	10	14	18
Dental Nurses	64	137	82
Dental Hygienists	28	26	33
Orthodontic therapists	12	10	0
Clinical Dental Technicians	1	1	0
	<b>289</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>453</b>

Table 1: New registrations per year

Registers	2023
Dentists	3,643
Orthodontists	204
Oral Surgeons	70
Dental Nurses	762
Dental Hygienists	626
Orthodontic Therapists	78
Clinical Dental Technicians	42

Table 2: Total on registers at year end

The registration process is becoming increasingly complex as the dental profession in Europe develops. The profession is mobile and many of the applicants who are seeking to register here are registered in one or more countries.

In 2022, the Dental Council introduced a special registration pathway for dentists who have been granted either permanent or temporary protection in Ireland as refugees. This pathway was originally introduced as a response to the war in Ukraine, but the Dental Council has opened this

pathway up to any dentist granted protection in Ireland, regardless of their initial country of origin. This demand to access this pathway has increased year-on-year, and to the end of the year 2023, over 140 refugee dentists have applied for registration.

### **Fitness to Practise and Compliance**

In 2023, the Dental Council considered the following (all references are to the Dentists Act, 1985):

- 1 matter under Section 28 (which allows the Dental Council refuse to register the name of a person in the register on the grounds of being unfit to practice dentistry)
- 1 inquiry under Section 38 (which allows the Dental Council to hold inquiries into professional misconduct or unfitness to practise by reason of physical or mental disability)
- 1 matter under Section 42 (which allows the Dental Council to consider convictions for offences triable on indictment)
- 2 matters under Section 44 concerning the same dentist (which allows the Dental Council to apply to the High Court to suspend a registrant when it is in the public interest). These were applications to amend the undertakings given to the Dental Council in 2022.

The Dental Council accepted an undertaking from a dentist in lieu of a decision under Section 28 of the Act. Thi dentist undertook never to seek registration or practice dentistry in Ireland In addition, Council found one dentist guilty of professional misconduct under Section 38, and decided not to sanction a dentist who was found guilty of an offence triable on indictment and twice altered undertakings given to the Dental Council under Section 44 of the Act. In addition, the Dental Council found that there were insufficient grounds to hold an inquiry under Section 38 of the Act in three other complaints.

### **Audit and Risk**

The Audit and Risk Committee appointed Mazars as its internal auditor in 2022 and the committee oversaw their first internal audit on the council's internal control framework. It is planned to bring this report to the committee in 2024.

### **Dr Joe Lemasney**

The Dental Council note with deep regret and sadness the passing of Dr Joseph Lemasney, a former president of the Dental Council from 2000 to 2003.

## **Annual Report on Governance**

### **1. Governance Statement and Board Members' Report**

#### **Governance**

The Dental Council was established under the Dentists Act, 1985. The Dental Council is accountable to the Minister for Health and is responsible for ensuring good governance and performs this task by setting strategic objectives and targets and taking strategic decisions on all key business issues. The regular day-to-day management, control and direction of the Dental Council are the responsibility of the registrar and the senior management team. They must follow the broad strategic direction set by the Council and must ensure that all members have a clear understanding of the key activities and decisions related to the entity, and of any significant risks likely to arise. The registrar acts as a direct liaison between the Council and executive of the Council.

#### **Board Responsibilities**

The work and responsibilities of the Dental Council are set out in the 'Statement of Governance of the Dental Council' document which also confirm the matters specifically reserved for the council's decision. Standing items considered by the council include:

- declaration of interests
- reports from committees
- financial reports/management accounts
- performance reports, and
- reserved matters

Section 21 of the Dentists Act, 1985 requires the Dental Council to keep proper accounts of all income and expenditure and to keep proper accounts of the property, assets and liabilities of the Council. In preparing these financial statements, the Dental Council:

- selects suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- makes judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- prepares the financial statements on the going concern basis

The Council is responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, its financial position and enables it to ensure that the financial statements comply with Section 21 of the Dentists Act, 1985.

The maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information on the Dental Council's website is the responsibility of the Dental Council. The Council is responsible for approving the annual plan and budget. An evaluation of its performance by reference to the annual plan and budget was carried in December 2023. The Council is also responsible for safeguarding its assets and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The Dental Council considers that the financial statements give a true and fair view of its financial performance and the financial position as of 31 December 2023.

#### **Statement of Compliance**

The council has adopted the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016). Dental Council has complied with the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies, as published by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in August 2016.

**Board Structure**

The Dental Council consists of nineteen members who are appointed under the provisions of Section 9 of the Dentists Act, 1985. The president and the vice-president are elected by the council. The members and the council's subcommittees are set out in Appendix 1:

**Dental Council Committees**

The Dentists Act, 1985 established three statutory committees: the Education and Training Committee, the Auxiliary Dental Workers Committee and the Fitness to Practise Committee. As well as these, the Dental Council has also established a Finance and General Purposes Committee, an Audit and Risk Committee and a Specialist Training and Registration Committee, which reports to the Education and Training Committee. A description of the responsibilities for each committee and its membership is set out in Appendix 1.

**Key Personnel Changes**

There were no changes in the membership of the Dental Council in 2023.

## **2. Statement on Internal Control**

### **Scope of Responsibility**

The Dental Council acknowledges its responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal control is maintained and operated. This responsibility takes account of the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016). Internal control and risk management are presently being overseen by the Dental Council's Audit and Risk Committee.

### **Purpose of the System of Internal Control**

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a tolerable level rather than to eliminate it. The system can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions authorised and properly recorded and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or detected in a timely way. The system of internal control is overseen by the Dental Council's Audit and Risk Committee. It has been in place in Dental Council for the year ended 31 December 2023 and up to the date of approval of the financial statements.

### **Capacity to Handle Risk**

Responsibility for control and risk rests with the registrar and this is overseen by the Dental Council's Audit and Risk Committee. This committee met once in 2023. The council policy is to manage identified risks conservatively and to build an internal resilience, including a financial resilience, to allow it deal with unexpected risk. The risk management processes in place detail the roles and responsibilities in relation to risk

### **Risk and Control Framework**

The Dental Council has implemented a risk management system which identifies and reports key risks and the management actions being taken to address and, to the extent possible, to mitigate those risks. A risk register is in place which identifies the key risks facing the Dental Council, and these have been identified, evaluated and graded according to their significance. The register is reviewed by the Audit and Risk Committee. The risk register is a standing item on the Audit and Risk Committee and Dental Council meeting agendas. The outcome of these assessments is used to plan and allocate resources to ensure risks are managed to an acceptable level. The risk register details the controls and actions needed to mitigate risks and responsibility for operation of controls assigned to specific staff.

I confirm that a control environment containing the following elements is in place:

- procedures for key business processes have been documented
- financial responsibilities have been assigned with corresponding accountability
- there is an appropriate budgeting system with an annual budget which is kept under review
- there are systems aimed at ensuring the security of the information and communication technology systems
- there are systems in place to safeguard the assets and
- There is no grant funding to outside agencies.

### **Ongoing Monitoring and Review**

The Finance and General Purposes Committee monitors control processes and control deficiencies are communicated to those responsible for taking corrective action.

I confirm that the following ongoing monitoring systems are in place:

- key risks and related controls have been identified and processes have been put in place to monitor the operation of those key controls and report any identified deficiencies.
- reporting arrangements have been established where responsibility for financial management has been assigned, and
- there are regular reviews of periodic and annual performance and financial reports which indicate performance against budgets/forecasts

**Procurement**

I confirm that the Dental Council has procedures in place to ensure compliance with current procurement rules and guidelines and that the Dental Council complied with those procedures.

**Review of Effectiveness**

I confirm that the Dental Council has procedures to monitor the effectiveness of its risk management and control procedures. The Dental Council's monitoring and review of the effectiveness of the system of internal financial control is informed by the work of the external auditors, internal auditors and the Audit and Risk Committee, and the senior management within Dental Council responsible for the development and maintenance of the internal financial control framework.

I confirm that the Board conducted an annual review of the effectiveness of the internal controls. No weaknesses in internal controls were identified in relation to 2023 that require disclosure in the financial statements.

### **3. Other Disclosures Required by Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies**

The Board is responsible for ensuring that the Dental Council has complied with the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies, as published by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in August 2016. The following disclosures are required by the code:

#### **Registrar's Salary and Benefits**

The registrar's salary is in accordance with the Civil Service Principal Officer salary scale. He is on the maximum of this scale which was €122,041 as of 31 December 2023.

The registrar is a member of the Dental Council's pension scheme, and his entitlements in that regard do not extend beyond the terms of the model public service pension scheme.

#### **Consultancy and Legal Costs**

The Dental Council did not incur any consultancy costs relating the cost of external advice to management and excluding outsourced 'business-as-usual' functions.

The only legal costs incurred were those relating to fitness to practise and these are disclosed in the annual financial statements.

#### **Schedule of Fees and Expenses paid in 2023**

Members of Dental Council or its committees are not paid fees. The amounts set out above are the travel and subsistence claimed by individuals. The Dental Council procures the costs of accommodation and flights where relevant directly. A schedule of the expenses received by each member is set out below.

	€
Niamh Galvin	4,502.11
John Murray	1,451.05
Gerry Cleary	1,107.33
Rory Fleming	1,082.42
Catherine Gallagher	757.44
Michelle Spearman Geraghty	690.06
Mark Kane	358.40
Anthony Roberts	355.54
Ruth Casey	288.70
Patrick Quinn	272.71
Ursula Byrne	80.80

#### **Protect Disclosures**

The Dental Council received no protected disclosures in 2023.

#### **4. Statement of Compliance**

The council has adopted the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016). Dental Council has complied with the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies, as published by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in August 2016 in as far as they are relevant to the Dental Council.



**Dr Gerry Cleary**  
President

## Appendix 1 – Council and Committee Members

Council Members	Appointed by	Serves on
Dr Gerry Cleary	Elected	President, Council, Education and Training, Auxiliary, Finance and General Purposes (Chair)
Dr Catherine Gallagher	UCC	Vice-president, Council, Education and Training, and Finance and General Purposes
Prof Anthony Roberts	UCC	Council, Education and Training (Chair), STAR (Chair), Auxiliary, Finance and General Purposes
Dr Niamh Galvin	Elected	Council, Auxiliary (Chair), Education and Training, Fitness to Practise, Finance and General Purposes,
Dr Rory Fleming	Elected	Council, Fitness to Practise (Chair), Education and Training, Auxiliary and Finance and General Purposes
Dr Sarah-Jane Grufferty	Elected	Council, Education and Training, Auxiliary, Fitness to Practise and Registration Assessment Committee (International Protection)
Dr Paul Leavy	Elected	Council, Education and Training and Auxiliary and ARC
Dr Patrick O’Brien	Elected	Council, Auxiliary, ARC and Fitness to Practise
Dr Patrick Quinn	Elected	Council, Education and Training, Auxiliary, ARC and Fitness to Practise
Dr Prof Gerry Kearns	RCSI	Council, Education and Training and STAR
Prof Brian O’Connell	Trinity College	Council, Education and Training and Auxiliary
Dr Mary Clarke	Trinity College	Council, Education and Training and STAR
Mr John Gleeson	Medical Council	Council, Fitness to Practise, and ARC (Chair)
Mr John Murray	Medical Council	Council and Finance and General Purposes
Dr Ruth Casey	Minister for Health	Council and Education and Training
Ms Mary Faulkner	Minister for Health	Council and Fitness to Practise
Ms Ursula Byrne	Minister for Health	Council, Fitness to Practise and Registration Assessment Committee (International Protection)
Mr Mark Kane	Minister for Health	Council, Fitness to Practise and ARC

Dr Bryan Maguire	Minister for Education and Skills	Council, Education and Training, and Auxiliary
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Committee Members	Appointed by	Serves on
TBC	Irish Committee for Specialist Training in Dentistry (Chair)	Education and Training
TBC	Irish Committee for Specialist Training in Dentistry	Education and Training
Ms Michelle Spearman-Geraghty (co-opted) Mr Ian Murray (non-attendee)	Elected Dental Nurse	Auxiliary
Ms Yvonne Howell	Elected Dental Hygienist	Auxiliary
Mr Hugh Ennis	Elected Clinical Dental Technician	Auxiliary
Ms Anne-Marie Connolly	Elected Orthodontic Therapist	Auxiliary
Mr Glenn McEvoy (Co-opted)	Dental Technician representative	Auxiliary
TBC (Chair of Oral Surgery Advisory Committee)	Irish Committee for Specialist Training in Dentistry.	STAR
TBC (Chair of Orthodontic Advisory Committee)	Irish Committee for Specialist Training in Dentistry.	STAR
Dr Frank Burke	Dental Academic (former Chair Ed and Training)	Registration Assessment Committee (International Protection) (Chair)

STAR – Specialist Training and Registration Committee

ARC – Audit and Risk Committee

## Attendance at Dental Council and Committee Meetings

	<b>Council</b>	<b>ETC</b>	<b>ADWC</b>	<b>FTPC</b>	<b>ARC</b>	<b>FGPC</b>
	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>
Dr Gerry Cleary	7/7	5/5	4/4			7/7
Dr Catherine Gallagher	6/7	4/5				7/7
Prof Anthony Roberts	4/7	4/5	4/4			7/7
Dr Niamh Galvin	7/7	4/5	4/4	3/4		7/7
Dr Rory Fleming	5/7	5/5	4/4	4/4		7/7
Prof Brian O'Connell	3/7	4/5	3/4			
Dr Mary Clarke	6/7	5/5				
Prof Gerry Kearns	1/7	4/5				
Dr Sarah Jane Grufferty	5/7	4/5	3/4	3/4		
Dr Patrick Quinn	4/7	5/5	4/4		1/1	
Dr Patrick O'Brien	3/7		0/4	2/4	0/1	
Dr Paul Leavy	5/7	4/5	4/4		1/1	
Mr John Murray	6/7					
Mr John Gleeson	6/7			2/4	1/1	
Dr Bryan Maguire	4/7	5/5	4/4			
Mr Mark Kane	4/7			1/4	1/1	
Ms Ursula Byrne	3/7			3/4		
Dr Ruth Casey	7/7	4/5				
Ms Mary Faulkner	5/7					
-						
<b><u>Auxiliary Dental Workers</u></b>						
Ms Yvonne Howell			3/4			
Ms Michelle Spearman Geraghty			2/4			
Ms Anne-Marie Connolly			3/4			
Mr Hugh Ennis			1/4			
Mr Glenn McEvoy (in attendance)			2/4			

### **Committees**

Education and Training	ETC
Auxiliary Dental Workers	AWDC
Fitness to Practise	FTPC
Audit and Risk	ARC
Finance and Gen Purposes	FGPC

\*There are four scheduled meeting of Dental Council each year. The additional meetings are special meetings and are often called at short notice and as a result council members may be unable to attend.

## Committees of the Dental Council

### 1. Statutory Committees under Dentists Act, 1985

- Education and Training Committee.

The Education and Training Committee is responsible for all matters relating to dental education and training, including post-graduate and specialist training set out under Part IV of the Dentists Act, 1985. The membership of this committee is:

- Prof Anthony Roberts (Chair and University College Cork)
- Dr Gerry Cleary (President)
- Dr Catherine Gallagher (University College Cork)
- Prof Brian O'Connell (Trinity College Dublin)
- Dr Mary Clarke (Trinity College Dublin)
- Prof Gerry Kearns (Royal College of Surgeons)
- Dr Paul Leavy (Elected Dentist)
- Dr Rory Fleming (Elected Dentist)
- Dr Niamh Galvin (Elected Dentist)
- Dr Patrick Quinn (Elected Dentist)
- Dr Sarah Jane Grufferty (Elected Dentist)
- Dr Bryan Maguire (Minister for Education)
- Dr Ruth Casey (Minister for Health)
- Chair of ICSTD (Irish Committee for Specialist Training in Dentistry)
- Member of ICSTD (Irish Committee for Specialist Training in Dentistry)

- Auxiliary Dental Workers Committee

The Auxiliary Dental Workers Committee is responsible for all matters relating the auxiliary dental workers professions set out in Part IV of the Dentists Act, 1985. This committee includes a member elected by each class of auxiliary dental worker. The membership of this committee is:

- Dr Niamh Galvin (Chair of Auxiliary Dental Workers)
- Dr Gerry Cleary (President)
- Prof Anthony Roberts (University College Cork)
- Prof Brian O'Connell (Trinity College Dublin)
- Dr Paul Leavy (Elected Dentist)
- Dr Rory Fleming (Elected Dentist)
- Dr Bryan Maguire (Minister for Education)
- Mr Ian Caffery (Elected by Dental Nurses)
- Ms Anne-Marie Connolly (Elected by Orthodontic Therapists)
- Mr Hugh Ennis (Elected by Clinical Dental Technicians)
- Ms Yvonne Howell (Elected by Dental Hygienists)
- Dr Patrick O'Brien (Elected Dentist)
- Dr Patrick Quinn (Elected Dentist)
- Dr Sarah Jane Grufferty (Elected Dentist)
- Ms Michelle Spearman-Geraghty (nominated Dental Nurse)
- Mr Glenn McEvoy (*in attendance representing Dental Technicians*)

- **Fitness to Practise Committee**

The Fitness to Practise Committee is responsible for all matters relating to the council's fitness to practise functions set out under Part V of the Dentists Act, 1985. The membership of this committee is:

- Dr Rory Fleming (Chair of Fitness to Practise and Elected Dentist)
- Dr Patrick O'Brien (Elected Dentist)
- Dr Patrick Quinn (Elected Dentist)
- Dr Sarah Jane Grufferty (Elected Dentist)
- Dr Niamh Galvin (Elected Dentist)
- Mr John Gleeson (Medical Council)
- Mr Mark Kane (Minister for Health)
- Ms Mary Faulkner (Minister for Health)
- Ms Ursula Byrne (Minister for Health)

## **2. Committee Recognised under Dentists Act, 1985**

- **Irish Committee for Specialist Training in Dentistry (ICSTD)**

The ICSTD is responsible for advising the council of matters pertinent to specialist training in Ireland.

- New committee to be appointed.

## **3. Standing Committees**

- **Finance and General Purposes Committee**

The Finance and General Purposes Committee is responsible for all matters concerning the Dental Council's financial control, corporate governance and routine administrative matters. The membership is:

- Dr Gerry Cleary (President)
- Dr Catherine Gallagher (Vice-President)
- Prof Anthony Roberts (Chair of Education and Training)
- Dr Rory Fleming (Chair of Fitness to Practise)
- Dr Niamh Galvin (Chair of Auxiliary Dental Workers Committee)
- Mr John Murray (Medical Council)

- **Specialist Training and Registration Committee**

The Specialist Training and Registration Committee is responsible for considering applications for registration as a specialist which fall outside of the provisions of the automatic recognition of qualifications under the Professional Qualifications Directive. The membership of the committee is:

- Dr Anthony Roberts (Chair and University College Cork)
- Dr Mary Clarke (Trinity College Dublin)
- Prof Gerry Kearns (Royal College of Surgeons)
- Chair of Oral Surgery Advisory Committee of ICSTD
- Chair of Orthodontic Advisory Committee of ICSTD

- Audit and Risk Committee
- The Audit and Risk Committee is responsible for reviewing the council’s internal control framework and risk management.
  - Mr John Gleeson (Chair of Audit and Risk Committee and Medical Council)
  - Dr Patrick Quinn (Elected Dentist)
  - Dr Patrick O’Brien (Elected Dentist)
  - Mr Mark Kane (Minister for Health)
  - Dr Paul Leave (Elected Dentist)
  
- Registration Assessment Committee (International Protection)

The Registration Assessment Committee reviews registration applications from dentists availing of the international protection pathway to registration.

  - Dr Frank Burke (Chair of Registration Assessment Committee)
  - Dr Sarah Jane Grufferty (Elected Dentist)
  - Ms Ursula Byrne (Minister for Health)