



Annual Report

2024

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	3
1. Annual Report by Area of Activity	4
2. Annual Report on Governance	7
Appendices	
A. Members of Dental Council and its Committees	10

Executive Summary

The Dental Council is pleased to present its 2024 Annual Report.

2024 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 2024. The main highlights include:

- **The launch of the Dental Council’s Strategic Plan:** The Dental Council’s previous plan expired in 2023 and the new strategic plan is intended to provide a roadmap for the Dental Council to prepare for a new Dental Act, which, the council hopes, will be brought forward within the next three years.
- **The need for legislative change:** The Dental Council has had an ongoing and positive engagement with the Oral Health Unit in the Department of Health on the need for legislative change. The department has committed to bringing a new Dental Act forward by 2028. The council hopes that, in the interim, legislation will be brought forward to address some significant deficits in the existing Act concerning mandatory competence, oversight of dental education and inspecting certificates of registration in dental practices. The council also hopes that the Regulated Professions (Health and Social Care)(Amendment) Act, 2020 will be commenced in early 2025 to address deficits in the council’s fitness to practise powers.
- **Significant meetings regarding new legislation:** The Dental Council met the Minister for Health on 15 January 2024 and the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Health on 1 May 2024 to discuss the need for legislative change.
- **Endorsing a student intake to the new RCSI dental school:** The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland is preparing to open a new dental school. This is the first time since the creation of the State that a new school is being established and the Dental Council has worked closely with the RCSI as this project develops. The council is satisfied with progress and it has endorsed a proposal to allow the RCSI start taking students in Autumn 2025.
- **Continuing high demand for registration:** The Dental Council registered more dentists in 2024 than in any other year. Demand to practice dentistry in Ireland remains high and in the three-year period from 2022 to 2024, the council has registered 1,376 oral health care professionals, 856 of whom were dentists.
- **Renewing its reciprocity agreements with the Dental Council of New Zealand and Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada:** The council highly values its international collaborations to allow it benchmark and promote high standards in undergraduate dental education. As part of this, the council attended accreditation visits carried out by its two international partners in 2024.
- **The launch of a new Code of Practice regarding Dental Amalgam:** This code of practice was published to give effect to a European Union Directive to phase out the use of dental amalgam in all member states (except in some specific circumstances). This is an environmental directive aimed at reducing the amount of mercury being released into the sea and air.
- **Applications under Section 44 and Section 33 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. The two applications it considered concerned allegations of unregistered persons practicing dentistry and the sale of unlicensed cosmetic medicines. The Dental Council also removed a dentist from the register under Section 33 for providing misleading information when the dentist was initially applying for registration.

Annual Report by Area of Activity

Education and Training

The Dental Council's Education and Training Committee main focus in 2024 concerned the monitoring and implementation of the conditions set out in the reports of the 2022 accreditation visits to two existing dental schools and working with the Royal College of Surgeons Ireland to allow the Dental Council to endorse an intake of students to its new programme in September 2025.

The Dental Council has been cooperating 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 ongoing viability of the programme. The Dental Council is satisfied with the work undertaken by the RCSI to date – while recognising that some of the critical elements for running a dental training programme are yet to be completed – and it supported an intake of 25 students in September 2025.

The most urgent condition arising from the 2022 accreditation reports concerned the dental school premises in Cork University Dental School and Hospital. The dental school had originally planned to build and 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. In its 2022 report, the council had concerns around the ongoing suitability of the existing site for dental education. The Dental Council is pleased that during 2024, University College Cork committed to an extensive plan of refurbishment of the existing building which is due to commence in 2025.

Demand to sit the Dental Council examination for non-EEA qualified dentists continues to outstrip the supply of places. Over the last three years, the number of places available to applicants has almost tripled and in 2024 the council accepted 55 new applications to sit the examination alongside a large number of repeat candidates but received over 160 applications. The council is continually reviewing its processes to try and increase the exam's capacity. The Dental Council also updated the process by which available exam places are allocated to give an advantage to dentists who are already established in Ireland while also allocating a number of places to dentists not established in Ireland.

In 2024, the Dental Council approved a high-level position paper on the principles it would adhere to when developing a mandatory dental competence scheme.. This paper was well received by the Department of Health and the council is optimistic that new legislation to provide for this will be introduced in 2025.

The council's Education and Training Committee noted that the Association of Dental Education in Europe (ADEE) has introduced a fifth domain to its profile of a Graduating European Dentist (GED). The GED profile which involves learning outcomes and competences has been adopted by the council within its overall requirements for undergraduate dental programmes. The ADEE is consulting on the change and the council will consider this matter further once the ADEE has completed its processes.

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 apply to those graduating before 31 December 2025.

The Dental Council has agreed to only recognise Irish specialist qualifications for the purposes of registering additional qualifications under Section 31 of the Dentists Act, 1985. The council has agreed that qualifications registered prior to this decision will remain on the register of dentists.

Auxiliary Dental Workers

The main focus of the Auxiliary Dental Workers Committee concerned the revision of schemes for each class. Schemes are legal instruments that consolidate the range of regulatory powers 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. In approving the proposed new schemes, the council is confident that the expanded scopes of practice can be accommodated in the existing training programmes and within the Dentists Act 1985. The proposed schemes are awaiting approval from the Minister for Health.

The committee considered a range of matters concerning dental nursing training. First, it agreed that there is merit in considering the development a national curriculum for dental nursing training in Ireland.

Second, one of the largest dental nursing training providers is in the advanced stages of moving its training from a traineeship model to an apprenticeship model. The council is supportive of this development on the basis that, regardless of any specific model of training, all programmes must meet Council's minimum programme requirements. Specifically, the Dental Council has been in regular communication with Cathal Brugha Further Education Training institute (CBFET, which now has overarching responsibility for Marino) regarding its work to move from a traineeship model to an apprenticeship training model. The Dental Council agreed that the apprenticeship should be supported and it will co-operate with CBFET as it progresses its work.

There is ongoing engagement with the Department of Health and discussions regarding the NOHP have been positive and collaborative. The Department has been updated regarding the work completed by Council in relation to the auxiliary schemes and scopes of practice, and it was confirmed that this work aligns directly with content in the NOHP regarding expansion of the auxiliary professions. It has been highlighted to the Department that there is a fundamental issue of congestion on the NFQ as far as the dental professions go with little or no headway to introduce new professions.

The issue is that dental nursing sits at NFQ Levels 6/7, dental hygiene at Level 7, and dentistry at Level 8. In addition, it was highlighted that the academic position of Clinical Dental Technology at Level 9 is also making access to this profession particularly difficult. These NFQ levels make it difficult for funded student progression between professions and makes the establishment of a new class of 'mid level professional' difficult to envisage.

The council has had significant engagements with the education providers and the National Tertiary Office which is attached to the Department of Further and Higher Education, Innovation, Research and Science on the aforementioned and other matters concerning the auxiliary training programmes.

The Dental Council approved the report of the accreditation visit to the dental nursing programme in Letterkenny Institute of Technology/Atlantic Technological University

Registration

There is significant demand to register as a dentist in Ireland. In the three years from start of 2022 to the year end 2024, the Dental Council registered 1,376 dental healthcare professionals and 876 of these were dentists. For the first time in 2023 the Dental Council registered more than 400 people.

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 2024, almost 200 refugee dentists have applied for registration.

	2022	2023	2024
Registrations			
Dentists	257	320	279
Specialists	14	18	14
Dental Nurses	137	82	151
Dental Hygienists	26	33	23
Orthodontic therapists	10	0	11
Clinical Dental Technicians	1	0	0
	445	453	478

Table 1: New registrations per year

Registers	2023	2024
Dentists	3,643	3,783
Orthodontists	204	213
Oral Surgeons	70	73
Dental Nurses	762	836
Dental Hygienists	626	646
Orthodontic Therapists	78	79
Clinical Dental Technicians	42	40

Table 2: Total on registers at year end

Fitness to Practise and Compliance

In 2024, the Dental Council considered the following (all references are to the Dentists Act, 1985):

- 2 matters under Section 32 (which allows the Dental Council refuse to restore the name of a person to the register on the grounds of being unfit to practice dentistry)
- 1 matter under Section 33 (which allows the Dental Council to remove the name of a person for providing misleading information in their application for registration)

- 2 inquiries 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)
- 2 matters under Section 44 (which allows the Dental Council to apply to the High Court to suspend a registrant when it is in the public interest)

The Dental Council removed one person from the register under Section 33, found one dentist guilty of professional misconduct under Section 38 and censured the dentist, applied to the High Court to suspend one dentist from the register under Section 44 (which was granted) and accepted undertakings from another dentist in lieu of applying to the High Court. In addition, the Dental Council found that there was no prima facie evidence of professional misconduct against two other dentists, and it sent two matters forward for inquiry.

Audit and Risk

The Audit and Risk Committee received the audit report into the Dental Council's system of internal controls. A number of recommendations were made, and these are being implemented by the council's executive. The Audit and Risk Committee has also commenced work to revise the Dental Council's risk register and it is planned to complete this in early 2025.

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 2024. 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 2024.

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 2024. Dr Paul Leavy was appointed chair of the Audit and Risk Committee after Mr John Gleeson resigned from the committee in October. Ms Eimear Burke joined the staff as Head of Fitness to Practise and Legal Affairs in August 2024.

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 2024 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 five times in 2024. 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. The Audit and Risk Committee is completing and significant enhancement of the risk register. It is hoped to complete this in early 2025.

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 materially complied with those procedures in all non-legal procurement. The Dental Council will be reviewing its legal procurement in 2025.

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 control were identified in relation to 2024 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 €127,295 as of 31 December 2024.

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 2024

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.

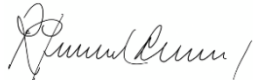
	€
Niamh Galvin	3,408.65
Gerry Cleary	1,985.69
Anthony Roberts	1,521.00
Catherine Gallagher	1,058.43
Michelle Spearman Geraghty	747.73
Patrick Quinn	490.08
John Murray	369.52
Ruth Casey	355.65
Ann Marie Connolly	242.98
Rory Fleming	226.70

Protect Disclosures

The Dental Council received no protected disclosures in 2024.

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 (Chair)
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 and Fitness to Practise
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
------------------	-----------------------------------	--

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

	Council	ETC	ADWC	FTPC	ARC	FGPC
	7	5	4	3	5	5
Dr Gerry Cleary	7/7	4/5	4/4			5/5
Dr Catherine Gallagher	3/7	4/5				4/5
Prof Anthony Roberts	6/7	5/5	4/4			5/5
Dr Niamh Galvin	5/7	4/5	4/4	3/3		5/5
Dr Rory Fleming	6/7	3/5	2/4	3/3		1/5
Prof Brian O'Connell	4/7	4/5	4/4			
Dr Mary Clarke	5/7	5/5				
Prof Gerry Kearns	2/7	3/5				
Dr Sarah Jane Grufferty	4/7	2/5	2/4	3/3		
Dr Patrick Quinn	4/7	3/5	3/4	3/3	3/5	
Dr Patrick O'Brien	4/7		4/4	0/3	3/5	
Dr Paul Leavy	3/7	5/5	4/4		4/5	
Mr John Murray	3/7					0/2
Mr John Gleeson	5/7			3/3	4/4	
Dr Bryan Maguire	4/7	5/5	4/4			
Mr Mark Kane	2/7			2/3	4/5	
Ms Ursula Byrne	6/7			2/3		
Dr Ruth Casey	5/7	4/5				
Ms Mary Faulkner	6/7			3/3		
<u>Auxiliary Dental Workers</u>						
Ms Yvonne Howell			3/4			
Ms Michelle Spearman Geraghty			2/4			
Ms Anne-Marie Connolly			4/4			
Mr Hugh Ennis			3/4			
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 Advisor 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.
 - Dr Paul Leavy (Chair of Audit and Risk Committee and Elected Dentist)
 - Dr Patrick Quinn (Elected Dentist)
 - Dr Patrick O’Brien (Elected Dentist)
 - Mr Mark Kane (Minister for Health)
 - One vacant position

- 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)