



Sent by email to [shiftingthebalance@gdc-uk.org](mailto:shiftingthebalance@gdc-uk.org)

26 April 2017

Dear Colleagues,

**Re: Shifting the Balance – Association of Dental Hospitals (ADH) response**

The Association of Dental Hospitals welcomes the opportunity to comment upon the General Dental Council's *Shifting the Balance* and supports the general direction of travel in dental regulation described within the paper.

We believe that the aim of our regulator should be 'to pursue the dentist who does not care rather than the dentist who tries and fails'. This approach would encourage registrant trust in the fairness of the regulatory system.

We would welcome the regular provision of data regarding trends in registrant issues and concerns to support our member hospitals in tailoring their continuing professional development activities accordingly. Dental Hospitals, hosted by large acute and community Trusts, have well developed appraisal systems often based on the GMC's Good Medical Practice Standards and the principles of the NHS Knowledge & Skills Framework. A harmonised approach in appraisal methodology across dentistry is supported.

With regard to partnership working, the ADH would welcome opportunities to contribute to a future partnership network to the benefit of our patients, students and staff. We agree that the quality of oral health care would be improved by the development of more formal governance arrangements across the profession. We have made significant progress in this regard, sharing the learning from incidents and complaints across our member Dental Hospitals and undertaking associated benchmarking / quality improvement activities.

Our organisation looks forward to future engagement with the General Dental Council as your work to improve professional regulation evolves.

Yours sincerely,

Avril Macpherson  
Chair, Association of Dental Hospitals  
Clinical Director, Liverpool University Dental Hospital