

Name: Mr Stephen Hudson

Via email: request-478178-488dca8b@whatdotheyknow.com

30 April 2018

Dear Mr Hudson,

Thank you for your information request of 05 April 2018 in which you asked: 'For the year 2017, how many GDC registrants attended fitness to practice hearings without legal representation?'

We have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the FOI Act"). We searched our Customer Relationship Management system (CRM) and identified that details about whether registrants are represented is not a mandatory field and is often not completed. To accurately identify the level of detail you have requested for 2017 would entail checking at a minimum the decision notices for each case which reached a hearing stage to identify whether a registrant was represented at a hearing.

We are able to provide figures for the number of registrants unrepresented at the Interim Order Committee (IOC) stage. We have conducted searches of our decision notices from 01 August 2017 to 31 January 2018:

	Dentist	DCP	Total
Unrepresented	26	34	60

Outcomes

No of registrants who attended more than 1 hearing	3	5	8
Suspension continued	16	18	34
Interim suspension	6	8	14
Suspension revoked	1	1	2
Conditions continued	4	3	7
Conditions varied	2	1	3
Interim conditions	0	1	1
No order imposed	0	5	5
Revoke conditions, impose suspension	0	1	1
Revoke suspension, impose conditions	0	1	1

However, we are unable to provide the information requested in full within the time and cost limit set out in section 12(1) of the FOI Act. Section 12(1) of the FOI Act allows a public authority to refuse to deal with a request where it estimates that it would exceed the appropriate limit to locate, extract, and/or retrieve the information requested. The appropriate limit for the GDC is 18 hours or £450. The estimate must be reasonable in the circumstances of the case. To produce the total statistics for 2017's Interim Order Committee, Professional Performance Committee, Professional Conduct Committee and Health Committee hearings we estimate that it would take a conservative effort of two and a half minutes to review each case based on the work already completed. At a total of 804 additional decisions to read through it would take a minimum of 33.5 additional hours to review one years' worth of cases and would therefore exceed the appropriate limit of 18 hours under section 12 of the FOI Act.

If you can refine your request to a narrow period, for example the number of registrants unrepresented at GDC IOC and practise committee stages within the last three months we may be able to help you.

Internal review and complaints procedure

I hope you have found the information provided helpful. However, if you are dissatisfied with our response or how your request has been handled you can ask that an internal review be carried out.

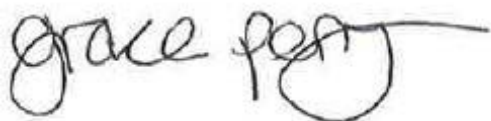
Requests for a review should be addressed to:

Principal Legal Adviser
General Dental Council
37 Wimpole Street
London
W1G 8DQ
Email: foirequests@gdc-uk.org

If, at the end of the review process, you are not satisfied with the response that you receive, you may write to the Information Commissioner, who is appointed to consider such complaints, at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 0303 123 1113
Website: www.ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Grace Perry', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Grace Perry
Information Officer
Freedom of Information Team
Phone: +44 (0)20 7167 6164
Email: foirequests@gdc-uk.org
Web: www.gdc-uk.org