

From the Chief Executive



BY EMAIL TO: [YARDLEYH@parliament.uk](mailto:YARDLEYH@parliament.uk)

Dr Sarah Wollaston MP  
Chair, Health Committee  
House of Commons  
London

21 December 2015

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Wollaston".

**A report of an investigation into the General Dental Council's handling of a whistleblower's disclosure about the investigating committee**

I write to bring your attention to the publication of this report. The whistleblower whose disclosures formed the basis of our concerns also wrote to your predecessor, Stephen Dorrell who wrote to me on 18 February 2014. He asked for our assessment of the adequacy of the GDC's policies governing the handling of concerns raised by members of the General Dental Council and its committees.

The terms of reference of our investigation as agreed by our Board were to examine the GDC's;

- a) Management of the processes and support for its investigating committees which post-dates the publication of our Investigation report 'An investigation into concerns raised by the former Chair of the General Dental Council (February 2013)'
- b) Response to the recommendation contained within our report, which was to review the processes and support that it has in place for its investigating committees, including the arrangements for gathering and monitoring feedback received.

And the adequacy of the GDC's whistleblowing policy and the operation of this policy as evidenced by:

- a) Its response to a disclosure by a whistleblower about the GDC's management of the processes and support of the Investigating Committee.
- b) Its management of a complaint by the whistleblower of detrimental treatment because of their disclosure.

The main findings of the report are set out in section two on pages 7-12. Our conclusions and recommendations appear in section six pages 272-279.

We recognise that this investigation has taken a considerable length of time. This is due to the amount of material we had to analyse, the number of witnesses it was necessary to

interview, the need to allow relevant persons time to respond to two drafts of the report and the fact that we do not have formal investigatory powers so cannot compel the production of evidence to us. We raised this last matter with the Secretary of State in 2013 and have raised it again in relation to this investigation. However we consider we have gathered sufficient information to give a fair account of events and from which we can draw reasonable conclusions.

We should be happy to discuss our report with you or your committee at any time should you wish to do so.

Yours sincerely  
HC

Harry Cayton CBE  
Chief Executive