

From the Chief Executive



The Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP  
Secretary of State for Health  
Department of Health  
79 Whitehall  
London SW1W 2NS

21 December 2015

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Goss", written over the typed name of the Chief Executive.

**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 Authority initiated this investigation following concerns raised with us by a whistleblower from within the General Dental Council.

The whistleblower also wrote to Stephen Dorrell, the then chair of the Health Committee, who wrote to me on 18 February 2014. He asked for an 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. I am therefore also sending the report to the chair of the Health Committee, Sarah Wollaston MP.

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, 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. However we consider we have gathered sufficient information to give a fair account of events and from which we can draw reasonable conclusion

I raised this issue of lack of investigatory powers with you when we wrote with our previous report on the GDC in 2013. I feel obliged to raise it again in relation to this investigation. I hope that in the review of health professional regulation announced by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ben Gummer MP last week, changes to the Authority's powers in this regard will be considered.

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

*Yours sincerely*  
*Harry*

Harry Cayton CBE  
Chief Executive

CC: Ben Gummer MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for State