



established since 1959

The Dental Council of Hong Kong

ANNUAL REPORT



Contents

	Page
<i>Message from the Chairman</i>	2
1 <i>Introduction</i>	4
2 <i>Functions of the Dental Council of Hong Kong</i>	5
3 <i>Membership of the Dental Council of Hong Kong</i>	6
4 <i>Preliminary Investigation Committee and Disciplinary Proceedings</i>	7
5 <i>Licensing Examination of the Dental Council of Hong Kong</i>	11
6 <i>Registration and Restoration of Names of Dentists on the Register</i>	15
7 <i>Education and Accreditation Committee</i>	16
8 <i>Continuing Professional Development Committee</i>	18
9 <i>Communication with the Profession and the Public</i>	20
10 <i>Future Developments</i>	21
<i>Tables 1-7</i>	22

Message from the Chairman



Dr LEE Kin-man
Chairman, The Dental Council of Hong Kong

Introduction

2019 was a busy and fruitful year to the Dental Council of Hong Kong (“The Council”) in terms of enhancement of regulatory measures, governance of the Council’s core business and establishment of sustainable infrastructure in various aspects for future development of the profession. The works were well in line with the core visions of protecting the public and maintaining the public’s confidence in the profession. I am honoured to serve the Council as the Chairman and to work with the dedicated Council Members and stakeholders in achieving various challenging and important missions.

Major Accomplishments

As stated in my previous annual reports, it is the Council’s core strategy to respond timely to ever changing risks and priorities in the community and the profession. In fact, the government has published a well-researched report, i.e. Strategic Review on Healthcare Manpower Planning and Professional Development (“Strategic Review Report”) in 2017 in which some recommendations have been made to tackle issues on manpower, the Council’s composition and the continuing professional development (“CPD”) of the profession, etc.

It was encouraging to note that the Council is tasked to conduct a review of the Dentists Registration Ordinance (“DRO”) as mentioned in the Chief Executive’s 2018 Policy Address. With collaborative effort of various taskforces and extensive consultation of stakeholders, the Council has thoroughly reviewed the DRO and a proposal was made in May 2019 to revise it in the areas of the composition of the Council and its Preliminary Investigation Committee, limited and temporary registration, regulation of dental hygienists, mandatory CPD programme, mechanism on handling health issues of dentists, definition of unprofessional conduct and practising dentistry as well as definition and movement between resident and non-resident lists. While the Council is waiting for an optimal time to assist the government in amending the DRO, we waste no time in reforming our policy and protocol along the thoughts agreeable with the parties concerned.

The Strategic Review Report has highlighted a potential manpower shortage in dentists both in long and short terms. The Council understands that it is not our responsibility to produce more dentists but a fair, transparent and accountable Licensing Examination (“LE”) may be contributory to alleviate the problem. I am pleased to report, since the most recent enhancement of the LE in 2015, the average number of candidates passing the whole LE annually has been increased from 5.5 (for 2012-2015) to 21.3 (for 2016-2019). Please also be reassured that the Council always insists on the essential standard and the enhanced LE has never compromised quality for quantity.

The main bulk of manpower supply relies on the training of local dental graduates. Since the completion of 2017 accreditation exercise of the local university dental undergraduate programme of the University of Hong Kong (“HKU”), a final report has been passed onto the University in August 2019 with emphasis on adequate clinical experience to convince the public that the qualification of graduates meets the requirements of the Council and the public’s expectation of competent dentists.

Another major development is on CPD. There is a common consensus to make CPD mandatory through amendment of the DRO or the Code of Professional Discipline for the Guidance of Dental Practitioners in Hong Kong (“the Code”). In order to make the implementation of any mandatory programme feasible, the Council has updated the CPD policy in inviting more organisations as programme providers so that the supply of adequate quality-assured CPD activities is available to all dentists in Hong Kong. I am delighted to report that the new policy of the Council’s voluntary CPD programme was announced in December this year which strengthens the framework further.

In the face of rising expectation of professionalism and ethical standards of the profession, the Council has worked on multiple levels to regulate the conduct and discipline of registered dentists in Hong Kong. In 2019, the Council received 165 complaints against registered dentists with 13 cases proceeded to the Preliminary Investigation Committee or Disciplinary Inquiry stages.

Before the close of 2019, the Council has accomplished a review and revision on “the Code” with the assistance of the Taskforce on Review of Code and Professional Discipline and an extensive consultation with the stakeholders. The Council published the revised Code in December 2019. The major update is on record, consent and the regulation on information dissemination. You will notice that the previously little red book has a new purple cover. Purple was adopted as it not only symbolizes dentistry but also projects connotation of “guidance” instead of “warning” for the profession which is consistent with the intent of the Code.

Tasks Ahead

The developments never stop. The Council will keep track of the implementation of all the initiatives mentioned above and their effectiveness and continue to work with the government, the stakeholders and the profession to meet the expectation of the public.

The success of governance over registration and regulation of the profession counts on the continued support of the people of the Council. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my gratitude to all Council Members, including the outgoing member Dr Betty YOUNG as well as staff of the Council Secretariat for their efforts and contribution throughout the year.

Last but not least, Mr Joseph SIU was posted out on 15 April 2019 after his many years of service as the Secretary of the Council. I would like to express my appreciation for Mr SIU’s excellent work and great contribution to the organizational governance and operational efficiency of the Council Secretariat which served the interests of the public and the profession. On behalf of the Council, I wish Mr SIU all the best in future.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This annual report, covering the period 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019, is published by the Dental Council of Hong Kong (“the Council”). Through this report, the Council aims to keep members of the dental profession as well as the general public better informed of the functions and activities of the Council and its various committees and working groups during the year under report.
- 1.2 As this report is intended for general information to the readers, certain functions of the Council have accordingly been simplified and/or presented in the form of an information document. Readers who are interested in the more specific details of the statutory functions of the Council and its committees and working groups are invited to refer to the relevant provisions under the Dentists Registration Ordinance, Chapter 156 of the Laws of Hong Kong, the Dentists (Registration and Disciplinary Procedure) Regulations, Chapter 156A of the Laws of Hong Kong and the Ancillary Dental Workers (Dental Hygienists) Regulations, Chapter 156B of the Laws of Hong Kong.

Enquiries relating to the functions and work of the Council can be addressed to –

The Dental Council Secretariat

4/F, Hong Kong Academy of Medicine Jockey Club Building

99 Wong Chuk Hang Road, Aberdeen, Hong Kong

Tel. No. : (852) 2873 5862 (General Enquiries) (852) 2873 5003 (Complaints Matters)

Fax No. : (852) 2554 0577

E-mail : dchk@dh.gov.hk

Enquiries relating to registration matters can be addressed to –

Central Registration Office

17/F, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen’s Road East, Wanchai, Hong Kong

Tel. No. : (852) 2961 8655 Fax No. : (852) 2891 7946

E-mail : cro1@dh.gov.hk

The Council’s website : <https://www.dchk.org.hk>

2 Functions of the Dental Council of Hong Kong

- 2.1 The Council is established under section 4 of the Dentists Registration Ordinance to carry out the following statutory functions in accordance with the Ordinance and the Dentists (Registration and Disciplinary Procedure) Regulations –
- (a) registration of dental practitioners in Hong Kong, including processing applications for registration, applications for specialist registration and applications for registration of additional qualifications, as well as issuing various types of certificates relating to the practice of dentistry to registered dental practitioners;
 - (b) conduct of licensing examinations; and
 - (c) disciplinary regulation of dental practitioners in Hong Kong.
- 2.2 The Council and its various committees and working groups meet regularly to consider and decide on policies to facilitate the proper conduct of their statutory functions. The Council Secretariat provides executive and secretariat support to the Council at these meetings. During the year, aside from holding routine policy and committee meetings, the Council has processed, with the support of the Secretariat –
- (a) 245 applications to sit for the licensing examination;
 - (b) 69 applications for new registration;
 - (c) 8 applications for inclusion in the Specialist Register;
 - (d) 2,383 invitations by issuing letters to the registered dentists in Hong Kong for renewing their practising certificates for 2020;
 - (e) 165 complaints or information received against registered dentists; and
 - (f) over 10,000 general enquiries from members of the profession and the public on registration and regulation-related matters.

3 Membership of the Dental Council of Hong Kong

- 3.1 Under section 4 of the Dentists Registration Ordinance, there should be 12 members in the Council and the composition of the Council is as follows –
- (a) the Registrar (the consultant dental surgeon in charge of the Dental Service of the Department of Health (“DH”));
 - (b) a consultant dental surgeon of the Dental Service of DH;
 - (c) a registered dentist, who is a full-time member of the teaching staff of the Faculty of Dentistry of the University of Hong Kong (“HKU”);
 - (d) 2 medical practitioners;
 - (e) 6 registered dentists to be appointed –
 - (i) from a panel of not less than 12 such registered dentists nominated by the Hong Kong Dental Association (“HKDA”); or
 - (ii) in the event of HKDA failing to nominate at least 12 such registered dentists, at the discretion of the Chief Executive; and
 - (f) 1 lay member.

Members in (b) to (f) above are all appointed by the Chief Executive.

- 3.2 The membership of the Council in 2019 is as follows –
- Dr Lee Kin-man (Chairman)
 - Dr Lam Tak-chiu, Wiley, JP (Registrar)
 - Dr Tong Chi-kit, Antonio
 - Professor Cheung Shun-pan, Gary
 - Dr Tung Sau-ying, MH
 - Dr Young Wan-yin, Betty (*up to 30.9.2019*)
 - Dr Leung Kwok-ling, Ares (*since 1.10.2019*)
 - Dr Ng Pong-yin, Robert
 - Dr Lau Kin-kwan, Kenny
 - Dr Foo Tai-chuen
 - Dr Chan Chi-chun
 - Dr Wai Tak-shun, Dustin
 - Ms Wong Yu-pok, Marina, JP

The Council’s Legal Adviser is Mr Ng Cheuk-kwan, Stanley, and its Secretary is Mr Siu Wing-ho, Joseph (*up to 14.4.2019*) and Ms Maria CHOW (*since 15.4.2019*).

4 Preliminary Investigation Committee and Disciplinary Proceedings

- 4.1 The Council's jurisdiction over dentists' professional conduct is laid down in the Dentists Registration Ordinance and the Dentists (Registration and Disciplinary Procedure) Regulations.
- 4.2 Disciplinary proceedings may be instituted against a registered dentist who –
- (a) has been convicted in Hong Kong or elsewhere of an offence punishable with imprisonment; or
 - (b) has been guilty of unprofessional conduct; or
 - (c) has obtained registration by fraud or misrepresentation; or
 - (d) has procured his name to be included in the Specialist Register by fraud or misrepresentation; or
 - (e) was not at the time of his registration qualified to be registered; or
 - (f) is practising dentistry in premises or under conditions which are unsuitable for such practice.
- 4.3 If any applicant for registration –
- (a) has been convicted in Hong Kong or elsewhere of an offence punishable with imprisonment; or
 - (b) has been guilty of unprofessional conduct; or
 - (c) is the subject of an existing order made under section 17(1)(i) or (ii) of the repealed Dentists Registration Ordinance 1940,

an inquiry may be instituted to determine whether or not the name of the applicant should be admitted by the Council for entry to the General Register.

- 4.4 The Council has published a Code of Professional Discipline for information to each registered dentist to provide general guidance to him on the proper behaviour to be observed in the profession and what may commonly constitute unprofessional conduct. The Code is not a complete guidebook on professional ethics, nor can it specify all offences which may lead to disciplinary action. Ultimately it is for the Council to decide on the merits of each individual case as to whether the conduct of an individual dental practitioner under complaint or information received constitutes unprofessional conduct.

- 4.5 Complaints or information received against registered dentists touching on matters of unprofessional conduct are normally either lodged with the Council by individuals or referred to the Council by the media, the police or such other organizations as the Consumer Council. In accordance with the statutory procedure, individual complaints may normally be handled under the following procedures –
- (a) initial consideration by the chairman of the Council’s Preliminary Investigation Committee (“PIC”) who must, unless it appears to him that the complaint is frivolous or groundless and should not proceed further, direct that the case be referred to PIC for consideration;
 - (b) examination by PIC of the complaint or information received as well as the explanation of the defendant dentist to determine whether or not there is a prima facie case for a formal inquiry; and
 - (c) inquiry by the Council, which sits in a panel of at least 4 Council Members, to hear the evidence of the complaint and representations from the defendant dentist.
- 4.6 PIC is made up of 3 members. Its composition is as follows –
- (a) 1 member of the Council elected by the Council, who shall be the chairman of PIC;
 - (b) 2 registered dentists who are not members of the Council and who shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Council –
 - (i) from a panel of not less than 12 such registered dentists nominated by HKDA; or
 - (ii) in the event of HKDA failing to nominate at least 12 such registered dentists, at the discretion of the Chairman.
- 4.7 The membership of PIC in 2019 is as follows –
Dr Ng Pong-yin, Robert (Chairman)
Dr Tsang Hin-kei, Century (*up to 11.1.2019*)
Dr Chiu Tin-yan (*since 12.1.2019*)
Dr Yiu Bun-ka
- 4.8 In 2019, the Council had processed a total of 165 complaint cases. **Table 1** shows the different nature of the complaints received. Comparative figures for the years 2017 and 2018 are also shown in the table. 77% of the complaints received were related to the disregard of professional responsibilities to patients.
- 4.9 The number of complaints processed in 2019 under the 3-stage process mentioned in paragraph 4.5 above is given in **Table 2**. 94 were dismissed by the chairman of PIC. PIC held 5 meetings in 2019 and considered 10 cases, out of which, 3 cases (i.e. 30%) were referred to the Council for inquiry.

- 4.10 **Table 3** gives a closer look into PIC's work in 2019. 10 cases involving 13 dentists were discussed. The 3 cases referred for formal inquiry were scheduled to be heard in 2020 and 2021.
- 4.11 The majority of complaints did not reach the inquiry stage but were dismissed either by the PIC chairman or at the decision of PIC. They were dismissed either due to their frivolous nature or because they were related to such allegations which could not be taken as unprofessional conduct. It was worth pointing out that some of the complaints touched on civil claims or compensation of professional negligence, rather than unprofessional conduct of the registered dentist which should more appropriately be dealt with through civil proceedings.
- 4.12 At an inquiry, the defendant dentist is normally represented by his defence counsel. The Secretary of the Council, who is normally represented by a Government Counsel of the Department of Justice, is responsible for presenting evidence to substantiate the disciplinary charges, including the calling of witness and independent expert opinion. Hence, it is normally not necessary for the complainant to engage his own legal representative to present the case at the disciplinary hearing.
- 4.13 The Legal Adviser to the Council sits throughout the hearing to assist the Council to deal with any legal issues raised at the disciplinary hearing. It should be stressed that, in deciding on whether the defendant dentist is guilty of the charges laid against him, the Council has to be satisfied with the evidence put before it, and the standard of proof applied in each case has to be commensurate with the gravity of the offence charged.
- 4.14 In the event that the Council is satisfied after an inquiry that a dentist has committed an offence which amounts to unprofessional conduct, any one of the following disciplinary sanctions may be considered –
- (a) removal of the dentist's name from the General Register and/or Specialist Register as appropriate; or
 - (b) removal of the dentist's name from the General Register and/or Specialist Register as appropriate for such period as the Council may think fit; or
 - (c) reprimand; or
 - (d) any other order as the Council thinks fit, but no such order is to be of greater severity than those in (a) to (c) above.

The Council has the power to suspend the operation of an order made under (a), (b) or (c) for a period or periods not exceeding 2 years, in which case the order will not take effect unless during the suspension period the dentist is found guilty of another disciplinary offence or is in breach of a condition of the suspension order.

4.15 **Table 4** shows the number of inquiries conducted by the Council in 2019. 7 inquiry cases were heard and 6 were concluded in 2019 with 1 ongoing. In the 6 concluded cases, 8 dentists were involved and all of them were found guilty. For the ongoing case, it is an application for restoration.

4.16 Any dentist who is aggrieved by the order of the Council may appeal to the Court of Appeal of the High Court and the Court of Final Appeal. The Courts may affirm, reverse or vary the order appealed against. **Table 5** shows the number of appeals lodged against the Council's orders in the years 2017 through 2019.

5 Licensing Examination of the Dental Council of Hong Kong

- 5.1 The Council has appointed the Examination Committee (“EC”) and the Board of Examiners (“BoE”) to assist in administering the licensing examination of the Council. EC is the policy arm of the Council in recommending the policy, format and rules governing the examination whereas BoE is responsible for conducting the licensing examination.
- 5.2 EC consists of –
- (a) 2 members of the Council (one of them shall be the Chairman);
 - (b) 2 registered dentists/full-time teaching staff of the Faculty of Dentistry of HKU nominated by HKU;
 - (c) 2 registered dentists nominated by the College of Dental Surgeons of Hong Kong (“CDSHK”) of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (“HKAM”);
 - (d) 2 registered dentists nominated by HKDA; and
 - (e) 2 registered dentists being public officers and nominated by DH; and
 - (f) the incumbent Chairman of BoE.
- 5.3 The membership of EC in 2019 is as follows –
- Dr Lau Kin-kwan, Kenny (the Council) (Chairman)
 - Dr Chan Chi-chun (the Council)
 - Dr Lee Hiu-man, Gillian (HKU)
 - Dr Lai Man-lung, Stanley (HKU)
 - Dr Chan Sai-kwing (CDSHK)
 - Dr Leung Chiu-man, Katherine (CDSHK)
 - Dr Foo Tai-chuen (HKDA)
 - Dr Wai Tak-shun, Dustin (HKDA)
 - Dr Wong Yiu-kai (DH)
 - Dr Hse Mei-yin, Kitty (DH)
 - Professor Cheung Shun-pan, Gary (Chairman, BoE)

5.4 The composition of BoE is as follows –

- (a) 5 registered dentists/full-time teaching staff of the Faculty of Dentistry of HKU nominated by HKU;
- (b) 1 registered dentist nominated by CDSHK;
- (c) 1 registered dentist nominated by HKDA; and
- (d) 1 registered dentist being a public officer and nominated by DH.

5.5 The membership of the BoE in 2019 is as follows –
Professor Cheung Shun-pan, Gary (HKU) (Chairman)

- Dr Leung Yiu-yan, Mike (HKU)
- Professor Leung Wai-keung (HKU)
- Dr Pow Ho-nang, Edmond (HKU)
- Professor Yiu Kar-yung, Cynthia (HKU)
- Dr Lee Chun-kei (CDSHK)
- Dr Chan Chiu-ye, Spencer (HKDA)
- Dr Law Chi-ming (DH)

5.6 A panel of Additional Examiners for up to 25 persons who are registered dentists with extensive general dental practice experience as nominated by the chairman of EC of the Council work with BoE in the process of examination.

5.7 The Panel of Additional Examiners in 2019 is as follows -

- Dr Chan Kam-sau, Echo
- Dr Chan Shu-yuen, Andrew
- Dr Chan Wai-kit, Raymond
- Dr Chan Wo-chi, Francis
- Dr Chiu Tin-yan
- Dr Chow Lop-keung, Raymond
- Dr Fang Tak-sang, Daniel
- Dr Foo Tai-chuen
- Dr Kum Chun-sing
- Dr Lam Tak-chiu, Wiley, JP
- Dr Lau Chi-kai, George
- Dr Lau Sze-lok
- Dr Lee Pak-cheung, Patrick
- Dr Ma Andrew Kwok-yui
- Dr Mak Wing-yiu
- Dr Ng Chi-hong
- Dr Siu Hin-ho
- Dr Sun Yee-wa, David

Dr Tang Kam-kee
Dr Tsang Leung-hei
Dr Wong Johnny
Dr Yiu Bun-ka
Dr Zhang Chen

- 5.8 Licensing examination is conducted by BoE with the assistance of the Panel of Additional Examiners. The examination is intended for those non-Hong Kong trained dentists who wish to register as dentists in Hong Kong. On passing the examination, the candidate is qualified to apply for registration with the Council. For the purpose of monitoring and maintaining the standard of the examination at an international level, an overseas examiner is appointed to give comments on the multiple choice question papers and to examine some of the candidates in the practical and clinical parts of the examination. The overseas examiner would also provide comments on the content and conduct of the examination for consideration of the BoE.
- 5.9 The examination consists of the following 3 parts –
- (a) Part I – Written Test which consists of multiple-choice question papers on professional subjects including Applied Basic Sciences; Medicine and Surgery in relation to Dentistry; Dental Pharmacology and Therapeutics, and Medical Emergencies in relation to Dentistry; Oral Surgery, Oral Medicine and Oral Pathology; Paediatric Dentistry and Orthodontics; Conservative Dentistry; Periodontology, Preventive Dentistry and Dental Public Health; and Prosthodontics.
 - (b) Part II – Practical Test which is designed to test the candidates' manual dexterity and professional competence in Paediatric Dentistry and Orthodontics; Prosthodontics; Conservative Dentistry; Periodontology and Dental Public Health; and Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.
 - (c) Part III – Clinical Examination which is designed to test the candidates' ability to apply professional knowledge to clinical situations particularly in diagnosis, treatment planning and treatment in the restoration of teeth; diagnosis and treatment of periodontal conditions; prosthodontic treatment provision; surgical management of patients; and the diagnosis, treatment planning, and management of infants, children and adolescents.
- 5.10 Details of the results of the examinations since 1997 are shown at **Table 6**.

5.11 The Council has set up a Licensing Examination Appeal Mechanism for applicants seeking permission to take the Licensing Examination and for candidates who are aggrieved by the decisions of the EC and/or the BoE regarding the examination. A Licensing Examination Review Committee (“LERC”) with membership independent of the Council was established in 2010.

5.12 The composition of LERC is as follows –

- (a) 1 registered dentist nominated by DH;
- (b) 1 registered dentists nominated by the Faculty of Dentistry of HKU;
- (c) 1 registered dentist nominated by CDSHK;
- (d) 1 registered dentist nominated by HKDA; and
- (e) 1 lay person.

5.13 The membership of LERC in 2019 is as follows –

Professor Chu Chun-hung (HKU) (Chairman)

Dr Cham Kwong-man (DH)

Dr Ho Kam-yuen (CDSHK)

Dr Mui Sau-fung, Michael (HKDA)

Dr Ho Chi-shing, David, JP (Lay person)

5.14 From 2015/2016 onwards, the number of sittings of the Licensing Examination has been increased from 1 to 2 per annum.

5.15 To enhance the conduct of the Licensing Examination, the Council reviewed the examination policy and established a bank of validated past questions and new questions in 2015. The revised examination policy, with revisions on the areas of result retention and admission, has been adopted for use from the 2015 Licensing Examination onwards. An Expert Panel has been set up for the Licensing Examination 2019-2020 to review and replenish the question bank.

6 Registration and Restoration of Names of Dentists on the Register

- 6.1 As at 31 December 2019, names of 2,611 dentists were entered in the General Register, either as being residents in Hong Kong or residents outside Hong Kong. **Table 7(A)** shows that there has been a steady increase in the number of registered dentists from 2,500 in 2017, 2,553 in 2018 to 2,611 in 2019.
- 6.2 One of the major tasks for the Council Secretariat is to keep the entries in the General Register accurate and up-to-date while enabling public access to those names currently registered on the list. Hundreds of transactions are carried out on the updating of the General Register on a monthly basis, which include change and/or addition of practising addresses, registration of additional qualifications, deletion from or restoration of the dentists' names to the General Register, transfer to and from the resident and non-resident lists respectively, as well as issuance of Certificate of Good Standing, Duplicate Copy of Certificate of Registration, Certified Copy of Certificate of Registration (which is required when a dentist opens a new clinic for the practice of dentistry) and certificates verifying registration, etc. In addition, with the aim of providing a public service, the Council Secretariat processes an annual average of over 5,000 general enquiries from members of the profession and the public on registration-related matters.
- 6.3 **Table 7(B)** lists in detail the registration figures as well as cases of restoration to the General Register in 2017, 2018 and 2019 respectively.
- 6.4 In addition to the registered dentists with full registration, there were 18 “deemed-to-be registered” dentists in 2019. The “deemed-to-be registered” clause was introduced under section 30(3) of the Dentists Registration Ordinance to enable all persons on full-time teaching employment of the Faculty of Dentistry of HKU to discharge their teaching duties or perform hospital work in the Faculty of Dentistry of HKU.
- 6.5 A dentist who has the qualifications, experience and other attributes approved by the Council may apply to the Council for inclusion of his name in the Specialist Register under a specialty. The objective of maintaining a Specialist Register is for the recognition of expertise so that patients may be referred to them for opinion and/or consultation if the need arises.
- 6.6 As at 31 December 2019, a total of 294 registered dentists had their names included in the Specialist Register under the following eight specialties – Orthodontics, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Periodontology, Endodontics, Paediatric Dentistry, Prosthodontics, Family Dentistry and Community Dentistry.
- 6.7 Another key task for the Council Secretariat is the annual exercise of renewal of practising certificates for all registered dentists whose names are on the General Register. In 2019, a total of 2,383 letters were issued to invite those registered dentists to renew their annual practising certificates for 2020.
- 6.8 Every registered dentist whose name is on the General Register for dentists resident in Hong Kong is reminded at the end of the year that his practising certificate is due for renewal. A dentist who fails to renew his/her practising certificate on time may be liable for his name to be removed from the General Register and the Specialist Register.

7 Education and Accreditation Committee

- 7.1 The Education and Accreditation Committee (“EAC”) was set up under Section 5C of the Dentists Registration Ordinance. EAC has the following functions –
- (a) to recommend to the Council the specialties under which the names of registered dentists may be included in the Specialist Register;
 - (b) to recommend to the Council the qualifications, experience and other attributes that qualify a registered dentist to have his name included in the Specialist Register under a specialty recommended by the Committee under (a) above;
 - (c) to recommend to the Council the procedures and documentations for an application to include the name of a registered dentist in the Specialist Register;
 - (d) to make recommendations to the Council so that it may decide whether the name of a registered dentist should be included in, or removed from, the Specialist Register;
 - (e) to review and recommend to the Council the standard and structure of undergraduate dental education and training in dentistry required for a person to become a registered dentist; and
 - (f) such other functions as are imposed on it under the Dentists Registration Ordinance.
- 7.2 EAC considers and recommends to the Council in respect of applications for registration of additional qualifications. A new set of “Guidelines for Inclusion of Qualifications in the List of Registrable/Quotable Additional Qualifications” has been put in place since November 2010. A “List of Registrable/Quotable Additional Qualifications” was also established. Once a qualification has been included in the List, a dentist possessing that qualification may quote such in the dissemination of his service information to the public. If the dentist so chooses, he may also apply for including the said qualification in his entry in the General Register.
- 7.3 As for the accreditation exercise on undergraduate dental education and training in dentistry, EAC has maintained a close working relationship with the Faculty of Dentistry of HKU to ensure proper implementation of the recommendations.
- 7.4 The composition of EAC consists of the following members appointed by the Council –
- (a) 3 members of the Council (one of them shall be the Chairman);
 - (b) a registered dentist nominated by HKU;
 - (c) a registered dentist nominated by HKAM;
 - (d) a registered dentist nominated by Director of Health; and
 - (e) a registered dentist nominated by HKDA.

- 7.5 The membership of EAC in 2019 is as follows –
- Dr Ng Pong-yin, Robert (the Council) (Chairman)
 - Dr Wai Tak-shun, Dustin (the Council)
 - Dr Young Wan-yin, Betty (the Council) (*up to 30.9.2019*)
 - Dr Tung Sau-ying, MH (the Council) (*since 17.10.2019*)
 - Dr Leung Chiu-man, Katherine (HKU)
 - Dr Pow, Ho-nang, Edmond (HKAM)
 - Dr Yeung Kar-hing (DH)
 - Dr Cheung Tat-leung (HKDA)

- 7.6 As at 31 December 2019, a total of 294 dentists have been included in the Specialist Register under the following specialties –

<u>Specialist title</u>	<u>No. of specialist dentists</u>
Specialist in Orthodontics	71
Specialist in Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery	63
Specialist in Periodontology	46
Specialist in Endodontics	20
Specialist in Paediatric Dentistry	35
Specialist in Prosthodontics	37
Specialist in Family Dentistry	13
Specialist in Community Dentistry	9

8 Continuing Professional Development Committee

- 8.1 A Continuing Professional Development Committee (“CPDC”) has been set up to monitor and review the Continuing Professional Development (“CPD”) Programme. The terms of reference of CPDC are as follows –
- (a) to monitor the process of accreditation of CPD activities;
 - (b) to recommend CPD Programme Providers, CPD Programme Accreditors and CPD Programme Administrators for approval by the Council;
 - (c) to recommend award of the CPD certificate for approval by the Council; and
 - (d) to conduct review of the CPD Programme for practising dentists.
- 8.2 CPDC comprises the following representatives -
- (a) 3 representatives from the Council (one of them shall be the Chairman);
 - (b) a representative from CDSHK;
 - (c) a representative from HKDA; and
 - (d) a representative from the Faculty of Dentistry of HKU.
- 8.3 The membership of the CPDC in 2019 is as follows -
- Dr Lee Kin-man (the Council) (Chairman)
 - Professor Cheung Shun-pan, Gary (the Council)
 - Dr Lau Kin-kwan, Kenny (the Council)
 - Dr Ho Wai-mei (CDSHK)
 - Dr Liu Wai-ming, Haston (HKDA)
 - Dr Leung Yiu-yan (HKU)
- 8.4 The CPD Programme has been running since 2002. In view of the fact that dentists in many countries are required to undergo “mandatory continuous learning” in order to maintain their professional status, the Council considers that it is necessary to explore the feasibility of mandatory CPD Programme for registered dentists in Hong Kong. In this regard, the Council has been reviewing the CPD Programme in order to formulate a strategic plan for long-term development. 1-year cycle of CPD Programme for practising dentists on voluntary basis was adopted for the years 2014 to 2016 as an interim measure. The Council endorsed to resume the CPD cycle, which will remain voluntary, to 3 years starting from 2017 in order to tie in with the CME/CPD cycle of CDSHK. A minimum of 45 credit points have to be accumulated over the 3-year cycle ending 31 December 2019. Out of the 45 CPD points, a registered dentist must obtain at least 8 CPD points (which was subsequently moderated as 5 points for the CPD cycle 2017-2019) by attending activities from the newly introduced core CPD areas.

- 8.5 On the recommendation of the CPDC, the following CPD Programme Accreditors, CPD Programme Administrators and CPD Programme Providers have been appointed by the Council for the CPD cycle 2017-2019 -

CPD Programme Accreditors

CDSHK
HKDA

CPD Programme Administrators

CDSHK
HKDA
DH (for Dental Officers of the Department of Health only)

CPD Programme Providers

CDSHK
HKDA
DH
Faculty of Dentistry of HKU
Hong Kong Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons
Hong Kong Society of Orthodontists
Hong Kong Endodontic Society
Hong Kong Society of Paediatric Dentistry
Hong Kong Prosthetic Dentistry Society
Hong Kong Society of Family Dentistry

- 8.6 As in the past, all registered dentists, including those deemed-to-be registered but excluding those on the overseas list, can enroll in the CPD Programme.
- 8.7 To ensure an adequate supply of quality CPD activities, the Council approved a list of Provisional CPD Programme Providers in late 2019 for the CPD cycle 2020-2022.

9 Communication with the Profession and the Public

- 9.1 In order to enhance communication between the Council and members of the profession, the Council, apart from publishing an annual report, will issue circular letters to all dental practitioners in Hong Kong from time to time.
- 9.2 The Council welcomes any views from members of the profession on issues which the Council can undertake to further explore and review so as to keep the profession abreast of the latest development in knowledge and skills in dental services for the benefits of members of the public.
- 9.3 The Council hosts a website <https://www.dchk.org.hk> to provide the following information –
- (a) Membership of the Council and its subsidiary committees and boards;
 - (b) Information on the date of an upcoming inquiry of the Council;
 - (c) Text of the Code of Professional Discipline for the Guidance of Dental Practitioners in Hong Kong;
 - (d) Guidelines on Personal Web Pages and Social Media for Dentists;
 - (e) Information and form in relation to complaints against registered dentists;
 - (f) List of registered dentists;
 - (g) Guidelines and form in relation to application to be a specialist dentist;
 - (h) Annual Report of the Council;
 - (i) Information on the Continuing Professional Development Programme for Practising Dentists;
 - (j) Guidelines and Form in relation to Inclusion of Qualifications in the List of Registrable/Quotable Additional Qualifications;
 - (k) List of Registrable/Quotable Additional Qualifications;
 - (l) Application for sitting the Licensing Examination of the Council;
 - (m) Scope of dental work that may be undertaken by enrolled dental hygienists;
 - (n) Competences for the Hong Kong Dentist; and
 - (o) Judgments of the disciplinary inquiries held by the Council.
- 9.4 To keep pace with the changing environment, the Council has completed a review on the Code of Professional Discipline for the Guidance of Dental Practitioners in Hong Kong (“the Code”) with the assistance and support of the Taskforce on Review of Code of Professional Discipline. The revised Code was issued in December 2019.
- 9.5 To facilitate members of the public to have access to the practice information of dental practitioners, the Council has approved dentists to provide such information through an electronic directory of dentists developed by approved organizations. Since 2003, the Council has approved HKDA to maintain an electronic directory of dentists.

10 Future Developments

- 10.1 The Council is committed to continue leading the dental profession in its role for greater professionalism. In meeting the community's changing needs and rising public expectations on the profession, the Council must stay up-to-date of the community's aspiration as well as the latest developments in technology and demands in dental service.
- 10.2 The Council believes that with the rapid clinical and scientific development, dental practitioners have the obligation to keep themselves updated on the latest development in knowledge and skills in the various fields of professional practice in order to maintain quality professional service. The Council will continue to review and closely monitor the CPD programme, and to encourage active participation of the registered dentists in the CPD Programme so as to maintain and raise further their professional competence.
- 10.3 The Council will continue to regularly look into the scope for improving procedures and processes in the handling of disciplinary cases of registered dentists to further enhance efficiency and transparency. Save for exceptional circumstances, the Council's disciplinary inquiries are normally held in public. This will remain the practice of the Council. Information on the date and venue of an upcoming disciplinary inquiry has also been posted on the Council's website for information to members of the public and interested parties.
- 10.4 The Council's Secretariat will continue to enhance its efficiency in the provision of services to members of the profession as well as the public. In particular, arrangement has been made to update regularly the information posted on the Council's website such that the most up-to-date information on various issues pertaining to the activities of the Council as well as the practice of dentistry in Hong Kong can be made available to the public.
- 10.5 The Council is answerable to the public and has the continuing statutory duty to ensure that all persons are of the required professional standard before they are given the registration to practise in Hong Kong. To this end, the Council will conduct accreditation exercise on the degree of Bachelor of Dental Surgery of HKU at 5-year cycle intervals. The first accreditation exercise was completed in 2013 and the Council has granted accredited status to the University of Hong Kong. The Council successfully conducted the second accreditation exercise in 2017 in collaboration with the Faculty of Dentistry of HKU. An Accreditation Report presenting the findings of the accreditation exercise with recommendations/suggestions has been passed to HKU. The next accreditation exercise will be held in 2022.

Table 1

Statistics on Complaints Received by the Dental Council of Hong Kong

Nature	No. of Cases		
	2017	2018	2019
1. Conviction punishable with imprisonment	3	-	1
2. Disregard of professional responsibilities to patients	112	83	127
3. Abuse of alcohol or drugs	-	-	-
4. Abuse of dangerous or scheduled drugs	-	-	-
4A. Mandatory labeling of all dispensed medicines	-	-	-
5. Abuse of professional position in order to further an improper association or commit adultery	-	-	2
6. Abuse of professional confidence	-	-	-
7. Depreciation of other dental practitioners	-	2	2
8. Canvassing	17	9	12
9. Misleading and unapproved descriptions and announcements	-	2	3
10. Improper financial transactions	-	-	-
11. Untrue or misleading certificates and other professional documents	-	-	1
12. Covering	-	1	-
13. Improper delegation of dental duties	-	-	-
14. Responsibility of partners and directors	-	-	-
15. Miscellaneous	15	21	17
Total :	147	118	165

Table 2

Work of the Preliminary Investigation Committee (PIC) of the Dental Council of Hong Kong in 2019

Nature	Total no. of Cases
Cases received	165
Cases dismissed by PIC Chairman (including cases carried forward from previous years)	94
Cases considered by PIC (including cases carried forward from previous years)	10
Cases referred by PIC to Dental Council for disciplinary inquiry	3

Table 3

Work Statistics of the Preliminary Investigation Committee of the Dental Council of Hong Kong in 2019

	Quarter				Total
	Jan.-Mar.	Apr.-Jun.	Jul.-Sept.	Oct.-Dec.	
No. of PIC Meeting	1	1	1	2	5
No. of new cases considered	2	1	4	3	10
No. of cases carried forward from previous meeting	-	-	-	-	-
No. of cases dismissed (%)	1 (50%)	1 (100%)	3 (75%)	2 (66.7%)	7 (70%)
No. of cases referred to inquiry (%)	1 (50%)	-	1 (25%)	1 (33.3%)	3 (30%)
Investigation in progress (%)	-	-	-	-	-

Table 4 Inquiries Conducted by the Dental Council of Hong Kong in 2019

No. of Inquiries	Nature	Findings by Council/ Decision of the Council
5	Disregard of professional responsibilities to patients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case 1 1 dentist's name was removed from the General Register for 3 months with suspension of 12 months (order gazetted) • Case 2 1 dentist's name was removed from the General Register for 1 month with suspension of 12 months (order gazetted) • Case 3 1 dentist's name was removed from the General Register for 3 months with suspension of 18 months (order gazetted) • Case 4 1 dentist was reprimanded (order gazetted) • Case 5 1 dentist was served of warning letter (order gazetted)
1	Canvassing	1 dentist was reprimanded (order gazetted) and 2 dentists were served of warning letters (order gazetted)
1	Application for Restoration	The application is ongoing

Total : 7

Table 5

Figures on Appeal Cases

	2017	2018	2019
No. of appeals lodged	-	1	-
No. of appeal cases carried forward from previous years	-	-	-
Total no. of appeal cases concluded in the year	0	1	0

Result of appeal cases concluded in the year:			
(a) Dismissed by Consent	-	-	-
(b) Dismissed by Court of Appeal	-	1	-
(c) Allowed	-	-	-
(d) Allowed with Substitute Order	-	-	-
Total no. of appeal cases concluded in the year	0	1	0

Table 6

Results of the Licensing Examination of the Dental Council of Hong Kong since 1997

Year	PART I			PART II			PART III			No. Passed the Whole Examination
	No. Sat	No. Passed	Pass %	No. Sat	No. Passed	Pass %	No. Sat	No. Passed	Pass %	
1997	35	15	43%	37	17	46%	19	12	63%	12
1998	30	18	60%	28	14	50%	23	14	61%	14
1999	27	13	48%	26	10	38%	20	8	40%	8
2000	38	21	55%	30	11	37%	21	12	57%	12
2001	28	10	36%	21	11	52%	19	13	68%	13
2002	24	8	33%	13	5	38%	9	7	78%	7
2003	26	7	27%	12	5	42%	7	7	100%	7
2004	23	10	43%	16	6	38%	6	5	83%	5
2005	30	10	33%	20	5	25%	6	4	67%	4
2006	29	18	62%	30	14	47%	12	6	50%	6
2007	27	10	37%	25	10	40%	16	9	56%	9
2008	41	18	44%	33	12	36%	16	12	75%	12
2009	49	20	41%	33	10	30%	16	10	63%	10
2010	48	21	44%	36	8	22%	14	6	42%	6
2011	46	8	17%	29	2	7%	10	7	70%	7
2012	46	4	9%	28	9	32%	10	7	70%	7
2013	45	4	9%	16	3	19%	8	6	75%	6
2014	53	17	32%	27	7	26%	8	3	38%	3
2015	40	3	8%	17	7	41%	18	12	67%	6
2016 (First Sitting)	21	8	38%	18	6	33%	14	10	71%	8
2016 (Second Sitting)	30	5	17%	14	3	21%	8	5	63%	4
2016 (Third Sitting)	38	7	18%	15	4	27%	10	4	40%	4
2017 (First Sitting)	38	8	21%	37	9	24%	30	20	67%	7
2017 (Second Sitting)	50	16	32%	31	14	45%	14	7	50%	16
2018 (First Sitting)	40	10	25%	24	8	33%	13	3	23%	6
2018 (Second Sitting)	60	18	30%	35	14	40%	30	16	53%	13
2019 (First Sitting)	53	16	30%	36	12	33%	27	16	59%	12
2019 (Second Sitting)	54	18	33%	44	13	30%	31	14	45%	15

Table 7

Number of Registered Dentists

(A) Total Number of Dentists on the Register of Dentists of Hong Kong (as at 31 December 2019)	2017	2018	2019
Dentists resident in Hong Kong	2,287	2,334	2,392
Dentists resident outside Hong Kong	213	219	219
Total	2,500	2,553	2,611

(B) Breakdown of New Registration and Restoration of Names to the Register	2017	2018	2019
New Registration	65	71	69
Restoration to the Register	4	0	4
Total	69	71	73

