**Letter from SAC Chair Regarding Trainees’ Dental qualification whilst applying for ST1 and ST3 posts**

**To TPDs, LMs, SAC members, Trainees**

**Trainees applying for ST1 and ST3 post**

The current person specifications state that an applicant must have: *Full GDC registration or a fully UK* ***registerable*** *dental qualification by the start date of the post.*

As of November 2018, the GDC have decided that they will no longer provide a proforma letter to confirm that a dental qualification is fully registerable. I thought it would be useful to provide advice to applicants about how the registrability of their dental qualification will be assessed:

**1 . Trainees currently on the dental register –** provide a copy of your practicing certificate when you attend the selection centre. You may also be asked to show your certificate to your ‘lead employer’ when you start your post.

**2. Trainees who have been on the dental register at any time after dental qualification –** the GDC has agreed to provide a simple letter stating this fact i.e. that the trainee was on the dental register, their registration has lapsed because of voluntary withdrawal or failure to pay the annual retention fee, and the reason for their not being registered is not erasure. Although this is not the proforma letter mentioned in the CCT checklist, if this letter is shown at the day of selection or to your lead employer when you start your job, this will be satisfactory.

**3. Trainees who have never been on the dental register for example because their qualification date is after national selection.** For UK dental graduates, we are happy to accept inspection of your original dental qualification certificate as confirmation of your dental qualification. For those whose dental qualification is not from the UK, we will require that the veracity of your dental qualification is confirmed by the General Dental Council either by their allowing you entry onto the Dental Register, or by confirming in writing that your dental degree would allow you entry onto the dental register.

It is **the responsibility of the candidate** to demonstrate that their dental degree allows them to be on the UK Dental Register before they take up their post. Trainees have got into difficulties when this has not been the case.

**General Advice**

Asrequirements can change over the years the SAC’s advice is to stay registered with the GDC throughout training to avoid any unforeseen issues in the future.

For those graduating from dentistry as a second degree the advice is to at least register on qualification in the first year and then follow the above advice

We recognise that some people prefer not to take this course of action for a variety of reasons but it is advisable to keep up to date with guidelines and seek advice from TPDs, Liaison Members or the SAC Chair at regular intervals.