

Press Release

Dental Council of Hong Kong welcomes the Dentists Registration (Amendment) Bill 2024

The Dental Council of Hong Kong is delighted to note that the Government will introduce the Dentists Registration (Amendment) Bill 2024 (“the Bill”) into the Legislative Council (“LegCo”) in April.

Upon thorough consideration, the Council has contributed views on the Health Bureau’s Consultation Document on the Proposed Legislative Amendments to the Dentists Registration Ordinance in 2023 in respect of operation, legal concerns, and enforceability of the proposed amendments. The Council welcomes the incorporation of most of the Council’s suggestions in the Bill.

The Council fully supports the introduction of new types of registration, namely limited registration and special registration, which aim to create additional pathways for non-locally trained dentists to contribute to the community. The Chairman of the Council, Dr LEE Kin-man stated “The Council’s oversight is essential to ensure that all registered dentists, regardless of their registration type, meet the required standards of competence, ethics and professionalism, thereby ensuring the provision of high standards and quality of dental care for the general public.”

The Council welcomes the timely introduction of internship and period of assessment requirements prior to full registration. This initiative will provide aspiring dental graduates and dentists with valuable clinical experience. Additionally, the Council appreciates the comprehensive updates to the regulatory regime for dental hygienists and dental therapists, recognizing the importance of maintaining a robust framework that strengthens the standards of dental professionals and affords better protection for the public’s safety.

Acknowledging that the Bill encompasses a wide range of amendments, including the mandatory requirements for continuing professional development for dental professionals, the revamping of the Council’s composition and structure as well as other technical amendments which aim at modernising the regulatory regime, Dr LEE expressed his thanks to the Government for introducing the Bill to the LegCo. He stated “The legislative amendments to the Dentists Registration Ordinance, which has been in place since 1959, will bring massive positive changes to the dental profession. The Dental Council of Hong Kong remains resolute in fulfilling its statutory functions and providing unwavering support for the successful implementation of these initiatives.”

27 March 2024