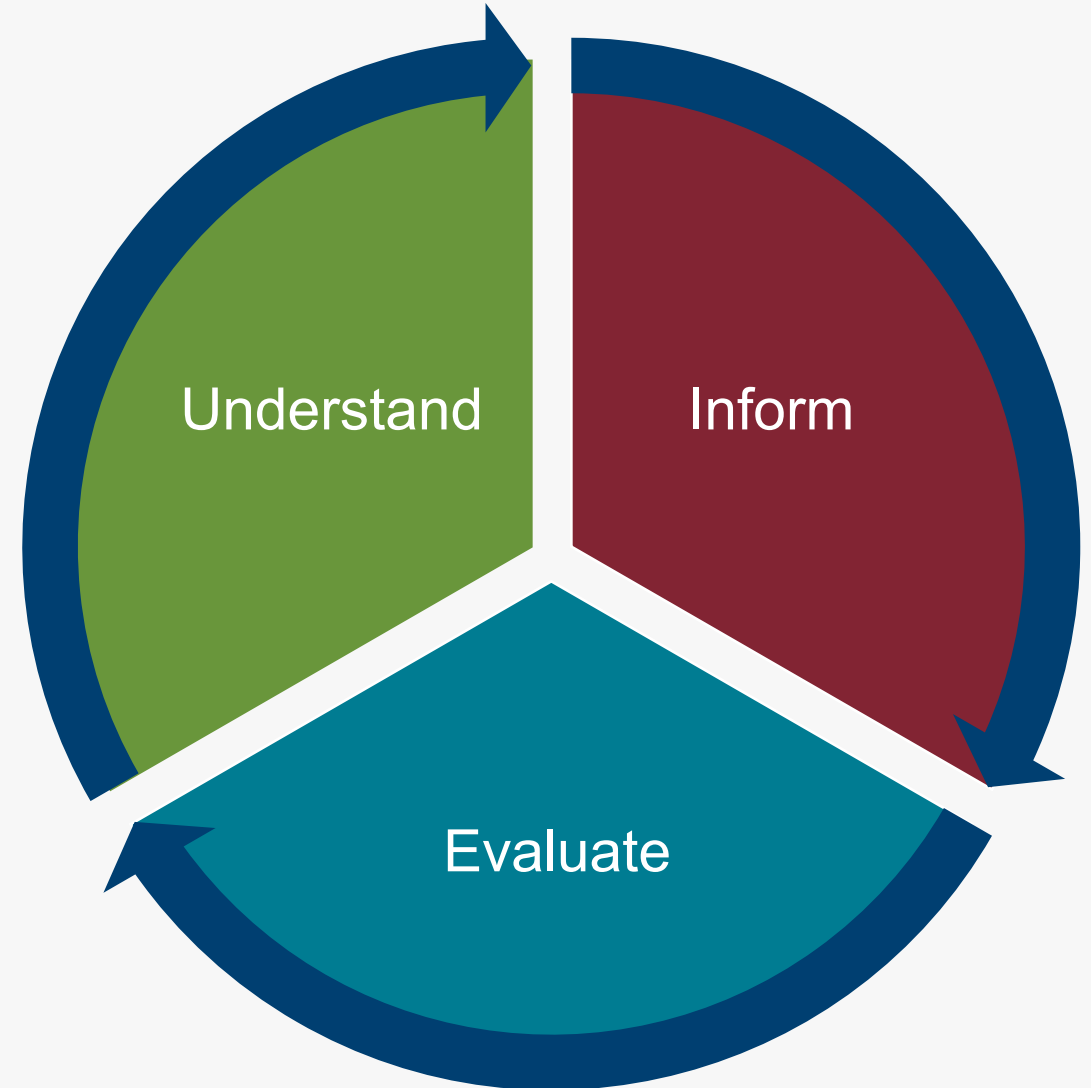
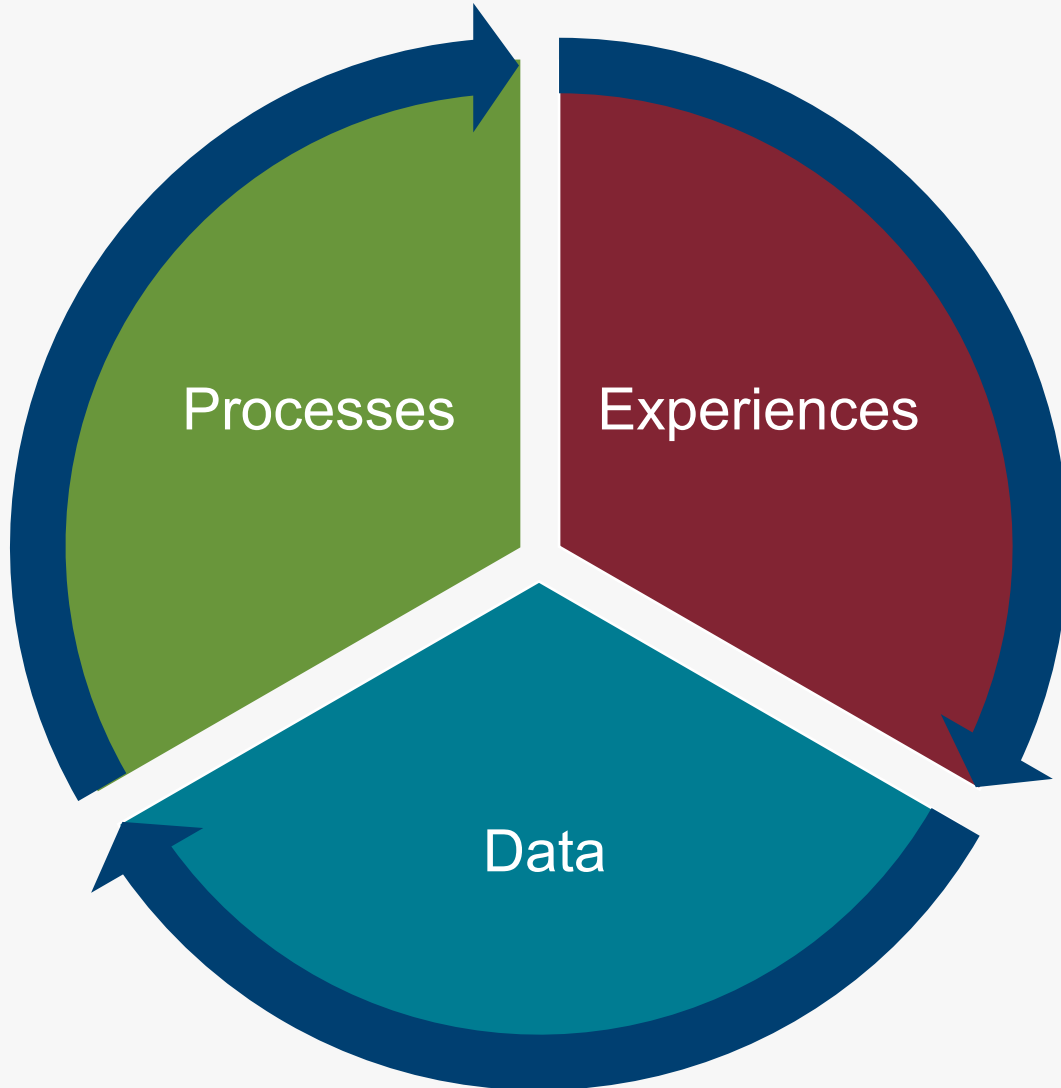


GDC's Fitness to Practise research programme: evidence-informed change

General Dental Council & University of Manchester

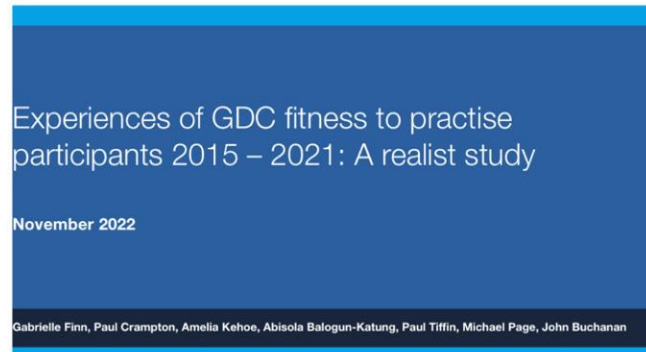
November 2025

FtP research – a mixed-methods approach



UOM FtP research and evaluation

- GDC commissioned projects to understand, inform and evaluate FtP processes and experiences



Exploring remediation in Fitness to Practise at the General Dental Council



Gabrielle M. Finn, Bryan Burford, Gill Vance, Megan E.L. Brown, Steven Agius, Michael Page, John Buchanan, Helen Church

26 June 2025

Communication and Support in Fitness to Practise at the General Dental Council



Gabrielle M. Finn, Bryan Burford, Gill Vance, Steven Agius, Michael Page, John Buchanan, Aaron Drovandi

November 2025

Findings from the development and implementation of a survey of registrant and informant experiences of Fitness to Practise at the GDC

Final Report

November 2025

Bryan Burford, Gabrielle Finn, Steven Agius, John Buchanan, Michael Page, Gill Vance



Connecting the Threads

- ▶ Focussed on the perceptions and experiences of
 - ▶ Informants and witnesses (including public and patients)
 - ▶ Regulated professionals
 - ▶ Regulator staff
 - ▶ External stakeholder organisations
- ▶ Generation of evidence-based, practical recommendations
- ▶ Improve trust and confidence in the GDC



Data Sources and Methods

- ▶ Aim: inform GDC approach to FtP and professionalism support
 - ▶ Documentary Analysis
 - ▶ Qualitative Interviews
 - ▶ Focus Groups
 - ▶ Reviews of the Literature
 - ▶ Surveys
 - ▶ Written diary entries



Areas for improvement & further exploration

- ▶ Awareness, confidence and trust in processes
- ▶ Fear of retaliation or strained working environments
- ▶ Definitions, boundaries and scope of remediation in FtP
- ▶ Expectations and desired outcomes different across stakeholder groups
- ▶ More equitable support for registrants, witnesses and informants
- ▶ Communication approaches and materials that are fit for purpose
- ▶ Efficient and effective internal processes and communication channels
- ▶ Feedback loops and learning mechanisms

FtP evidence going forward

Empathy, a golden thread in GDC's new corporate strategy

Risk

FTP and public
protection

Tip of the iceberg?

What to look for
and why?

Sector

Perfect storm for
concerns

AI

Workforce

Proportionality

Notifying registrants

Tone and clarity of
communications

Processes and
systems

Inclusion

Voice

Understanding EDI

Informants v
registrants EDI