

**BEFORE THE FITNESS TO PRACTISE COMMITTEE  
OF THE GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL**

**GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL**

**IO(09)07**

**AND**

**ZAHEER GHANCHI (SO-1123)**

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**DETERMINATION OF REVIEW OF AN INTERIM ORDER  
23 APRIL 2010**

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The Fitness to Practise Committee reviewed an interim conditional registration order made by the Council on 12 November 2009 in respect of Zaheer Ghanchi; the order being for 9 months in duration.

**Notification of hearing**

The Committee is satisfied that all reasonable efforts have been made to notify the registrant of the hearing. The Committee noted the contents of the letter of the 19<sup>th</sup> of April 2010 from the registrant's solicitors indicating that he had received the notice but that he was not intending to attend this hearing. The Committee further determined that it would be in the public interest for the hearing to proceed in the registrant's absence

**Decision (Redacted)**

The Committee has considered all the material before it including that before the original Committee. It has taken account of the submissions made by Mr Hepworth on behalf of the Council. It has accepted the advice of the Legal Adviser.

The Committee considers that it remains necessary in the public interest for the Interim order to continue. The registrant is still subject to the suspended sentence of the court and it is only one year since his offence of drink driving. These are serious matters and the Committee is satisfied that its duty to maintain confidence in the profession necessitates the requirement to continue this order. It has also considered whether it is in the registrant's own interest that there is an order. However, it is still early in the process and the Committee considers that it is necessary, in his own interests, as well as in the public interest, for the order to continue.

The Committee went on to consider whether it was sufficient for the interim order for conditional registration to continue. It is satisfied that it is proportionate for the current order to continue.

The Committee reviewed the conditions imposed on the last occasion. It determined that the previous Condition 2 has been satisfied and is no longer necessary. It also determined that

Condition 3 does not impose any requirement upon the registrant and is not, therefore, an appropriate condition. The Committee has amended new Condition 2.

The Committee therefore orders that these interim conditions remain in place for the remainder of the period of the order.

**Condition 1**

Redacted

**Condition 2**

For the remainder of the period of his pre-registration training, the registrant shall provide to the Council a copy of each Trainee Visit Report undertaken by his assessor within 14 days of his receipt of the report.

**Condition 3**

The registrant must inform the Registrar within 14 days of any criminal convictions, police cautions or formal disciplinary proceedings taken against him from the date of this determination.

**Condition 4**

Redacted

**Condition 5**

The registrant must not possess any drugs listed in Schedules 1-3 of the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001 (as amended from time to time).

The interim order is due to expire on 12 August 2010 and it is hoped that the matter can progress to a substantive hearing before that date. However, should it not progress, the Council will need to apply to the High Court for an extension of the order and in these circumstances the Committee does not order a further review before the expiry date.

**Chairman of the Committee: Mercy Jeyasingham**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date 23 April 2010