

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

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IO(09)02

AND

SABEEN KHAN (01-24690)

**DETERMINATION OF REVIEW OF AN INTERIM ORDER
19 JANUARY 2010**

The Fitness to Practise Committee reviewed an Interim Order for the suspension of Sabeen Khan for a period of 12 months made by the Council on 3 August 2009.

The registrant was not present but was ably represented by Counsel who appeared for her both today and on 3 August 2009.

The Committee heard allegations that on 6th June 2009 the registrant reported to an optical practice where registrant A had been booked to perform a session of locum duties as a registered optometrist. The registrant claimed that registrant A was unavailable due to sickness and that she was a registered optometrist and could substitute for him. She undertook registrant A's duties and examined 19 patients, signing GOS and other forms using registrant A's details. She claimed payment of £300. Her statements were false. At that time the registrant only had student registration and was not entitled to call herself an optometrist or perform unsupervised sight tests.

The Committee has listened with care to the submissions made by the Council and on behalf of the registrant and it has accepted the advice of the legal adviser. The Committee reminded itself that in considering the powers given to it under section 13L (1) of the Opticians Act it should consider the need for any interim order as of today's date.

The Committee is not satisfied that an order for interim suspension is necessary for the protection of the public. There is nothing before it to call into account the registrant's clinical abilities. The Committee is, however, concerned at the admitted flagrant disregard shown by the registrant for the statutory registration procedure and for what appears to it to be her dishonest behaviour in representing on the Asda

locum payment invoice that she was a registered optometrist entitled to examine patients and be paid for so doing under the auspices of the NHS.

The Committee regard this behaviour as sufficiently serious to require it, as being "otherwise in the public interest", to continue the interim order for suspension made on 3 August 2009.

The order will be reviewed within 6 months from today unless all matters are resolved within that time, or earlier should new evidence be made available, or if the registrant, at any time after three months from today's date, requests an early review.

Chairman of the Committee: Corinna Kershaw

Signed _____ Date 19 January 2010