

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

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**IO(10)05**

**AND**

**ANTHONY PLIMMER (01-9062)**

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**DETERMINATION OF APPLICATION FOR AN INTERIM ORDER  
- 30 JUNE 2010 -**

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The Fitness to Practise Committee considered an application for an Interim Order made by the Council on 30 June 2010.

**Decision**

The Committee is satisfied that it is necessary to make an interim order for the protection of the public. The Committee came to this decision having considered the totality of the evidence before it and noted the hitherto unblemished record of the registrant. The Committee has had regard to the need to maintain proper standards within the profession and to preserve the confidence of the public.

The Committee had before it evidence that during the period May to November 2009 a series of concerns were raised regarding the practise of the registrant in a number of cases:

- Patients' history and symptoms not being identified or recorded;
- Incorrect prescriptions being issued to patients;
- No record of recommendations outlined to patients;
- Lack of detection of a potential glaucoma case;
- Lack of notes relating to those patients whose visual acuity fell beneath the required legal standard for driving.

In coming to its decision, the Committee has had regard to the need for proportionality. The Committee accepted the advice of the legal adviser.

The Committee reminded itself that its task was to consider the evidence presently available and to reach a decision as required by the remit of this Committee. It was

aware that its view cannot pre-empt or bind the views which may be formed by any later or different committee which will come to its decision based upon the evidence available to it.

The Committee considered that its concerns set out above could properly be met by the imposition of conditions.

The Committee therefore orders that the registrant's registration be subject to conditions for a period of 18 months from today. 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.

### **LIST OF CONDITIONS**

1. You must place yourself and remain under the supervision of a specified supervisor approved by the Registrar. The supervisor must be based predominantly at your place of work, regularly oversee your professional performance and record keeping and take responsibility for the care of your patients. The supervisor is to provide reports to the Registrar every three months providing details of any progression or regression in the following areas of your practise:

- Record keeping;
- Glaucoma / visual fields assessment;
- Patient communication.

You must advise the Registrar of the nominated supervisor's contact details and of any change to the specified workplace supervisor.

2. You must not undertake any locum work in any form unless advised to do so by your supervisor and with prior agreement of the Registrar.
3. The GOC will enter these conditions against your name in the register.. You must allow the Registrar to share any information, including confidential information, with any employer, supervisor, professional colleague or any organisation for which you provide ophthalmic services for the duration of your conditional registration. You must also allow the Registrar to share this information with other regulatory bodies and the Department of Health.
4. You must notify the Registrar within 14 days of commencement of any professional appointment you accept whilst you are subject to these conditions (this includes any teaching posts) and provide contact details of your employer and if providing ophthalmic services under a NHS contract, the PCT on whose ophthalmic practitioners list you will be included (this includes any equivalent employer in the EC).
5. You must inform the Registrar within 14 days of any criminal convictions, police cautions or formal disciplinary proceedings taken against you from the date of this determination.

6. You must inform the Registrar:
- a. If you cease working;
  - b. If your work takes you out of the UK for a significant period of time; or
  - c. Of any employment you apply for outside of the UK (and in which countries)

as conditions of registration only apply to practice undertaken in the UK (you must consider whether your time out of work or out of the UK will allow you to fulfil the conditions during the period of conditional registration). The Registrar may inform the relevant competent authorities in that country of your current conditions of UK registration.

7. You must continue to fulfil the CET requirements under the GOC CET scheme to secure appropriate points for continued inclusion on the GOC register.
8. You must inform the following parties that your registration is subject to conditional registration:
- a. Any organisation or person employing or contracting with you to undertake ophthalmic services (to include any locum agency);
  - b. Any prospective employer (whether within the UK or EC);
  - c. Chairman of the Local Optometric Committee;
  - d. The PCT in whose ophthalmic practitioners list you are included or seeking inclusion.
9. You must ensure that your GOC registration is renewed by 15 March annually while you are subject to the GOC FTP conditional registration procedures. Should you fail to renew your registration a review hearing will be arranged immediately.

**Chairman of the Committee: Peter North**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date 30 June 2010