General Optical Council

BEFORE THE FITNESS TO PRACTISE COMMITTEE
OF THE GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL

GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL

F(24)03

AND

SALLY HILTON (D-11927)

PRIVATE HEARING

DETERMINATION OF A SUBSTANTIVE REVIEW
01 July 2026

Committee Members:	Clive Powell (Chair/Lay) Ann McKechin (Lay) Miriam Karp (Lay) Ian Taylor (Dispensing Optician) Sarah Baylay (Dispensing Optician)
Legal adviser:	Jeff Widdup
Clinical Adviser:	Jennifer Bearn
GOC Presenting Officer:	Leonie Hinds
Registrant:	Not present and represented
Registrant representative:	Dean Smith
Hearings Officer:	Arjeta Shabani
Outcome:	Impairment found – Indefinite Suspension

General Optical Council

DETERMINATION

Background

1. The substantive hearing took place on 23 - 24 May 2024, 28 – 31 May 2024 and 29 July 2024. The substantive Fitness to Practise Committee found the allegation proved pursuant to Rule 46 (12) of the General Optical Council (Fitness to Practise) Rules Order of Council 2013 (the Rules).

Second Substantive Review Hearing - 01 July 2026

Preliminary matters

2. Ms Hinds applied for the entirety of the hearing to be dealt with in private. The Committee heard and accepted the advice of the Legal Adviser with respect to the application.
3. The Committee was satisfied that it was appropriate for all of the hearing to be heard in private.

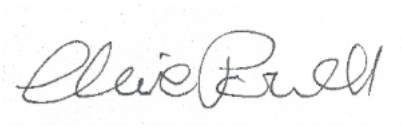
Findings on Impairment

4. The Committee found that the Registrant's fitness to practise as a Dispensing Optician is currently impaired.

Sanction

5. Having determined that the Registrant's fitness to practise is currently impaired, the Committee went on to consider an appropriate sanction.
6. The Committee determined that the proportionate order would be an order of indefinite suspension which would come into effect at the end of the current order of suspension.

Chairman of the Committee: Clive Powell

Signature  **Date:** 01 July 2026

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FURTHER INFORMATION

Transcript

A full transcript of the hearing will be made available for purchase in due course.

Appeal

Any appeal against an order of the Committee must be lodged with the relevant court within 28 days of the service of this notification. If no appeal is lodged, the order will take effect at the end of that period. The relevant court is shown at section 23G(4)(a)-(c) of the Opticians Act 1989 (as amended).

Professional Standards Authority

This decision will be reported to the Professional Standards Authority (PSA) under the provisions of section 29 of the NHS Reform and Healthcare Professions Act 2002. PSA may refer this case to the High Court of Justice in England and Wales, the Court of Session in Scotland or the High Court of Justice in Northern Ireland as appropriate if they decide that a decision has been insufficient to protect the public and/or should not have been made, and if they consider that referral is desirable for the protection of the public.

Where a registrant can appeal against a decision, the Authority has 40 days beginning with the day which is the last day in which you can appeal. Where a registrant cannot appeal against the outcome of a hearing, the Authority's appeal period is 56 days beginning with the day in which notification of the decision was served on you. PSA will notify you promptly of a decision to refer. A letter will be sent by recorded delivery to your registered address (unless PSA has been notified by the GOC of a change of address).

Further information about the PSA can be obtained from its website at www.professionalstandards.org.uk or by telephone on 020 7389 8030.

Effect of orders for suspension or erasure

To practise or carry on business as an optometrist or dispensing optician, to take or use a description which implies registration or entitlement to undertake any activity which the law restricts to a registered person, may amount to a criminal offence once an entry in the register has been suspended or erased.

Contact

If you require any further information, please contact the Council's Hearings Manager at Floor 29, One Canada Square, London, E14 5AAor, by telephone, on 020 7580 3898.