

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

GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL

F(24)36

AND

SIDDIQUE CHOWDHURY (01-42508)

**NOTICE OF INQUIRY
SUBSTANTIVE HEARING**

Take notice that an Inquiry will be conducted in the above matter by the Fitness to Practise Committee of the General Optical Council.

A substantive hearing will be proceeding:

Blended hearing

This means part of the hearing will be held physically in person and part of the hearing will be held remotely via video conference facilities.

The substantive hearing will take place on:

Physically – at **9:30am** on **Tuesday 25 November - Friday 28 November 2025** at the **GDC offices: 37 Wimpole Street, London, W1G 8DQ.**

Remotely – on **Monday 1 December - Thursday 4 December 2025** via **Microsoft Teams.**

The Inquiry will be based upon the allegation submitted by the Council (see below) and will determine whether the fitness to practise of **Siddique Chowdhury** is impaired by virtue of the provisions contained in section 13D(2) of the Opticians Act 1989.

Euan Napier
Hearings Manager, General Optical Council

30 October 2025

ALLEGATION

The Council alleges that in relation to you, Siddique Chowdhury (01-42508) a registered Optometrist, whilst employed as a pre-registrant at [redacted] Specsavers Limited:

1) On or around 17 December 2023, you:

a. Failed to perform an appropriate examination and/or assessment of Patient A's eyes in that you:

- i. Failed to identify signs of diplopia; and/or
- ii. Failed to perform any tests for Patient A's oculomotor status; and/or
- iii. Failed to ask follow-up questions despite Patient A reporting double vision; and/or
- iv. Inappropriately said to Patient A, "Your astigmatism has changed" or words to that effect, despite having insufficient information to advise Patient A that a refractive change had taken place in his right eye; and/or
- v. Failed to appropriately provide Patient A with a signed written prescription, following his test, in accordance with Paragraph 26 of Part IV of the Optician's Act 1989; and/or

b. Failed to maintain adequate records in that you:

- i. Recorded 'routine check (no symptoms)' despite failing to ask Patient A his reason for visit; and/or
- ii. Recorded 'routine check (no symptoms)' despite Patient A reporting he has noticed a change in his vision; and/or
- iii. Recorded that Patient A said his distance and near vision are good despite Patient A reporting he has noticed a change in his vision; and/or
- iv. Recorded that Patient A has not reported any flashes, floaters, diplopia, or headaches despite not asking the patient; and/or
- v. Recorded that Patient A has not reported any flashes, floaters, diplopia, or headaches despite the patient reporting his vision as 'double'; and/or
- vi. Recorded near vision and/or near visual acuity despite this not being assessed; and/or vii. Recorded performing a cover test and/or ocular motility test and/or pupil assessment despite these not being performed; and/or
- viii. Failed to record Patient A's symptom of double vision; and/or
- ix. Failed to record which supervisor was responsible for the examination; and/or
- x. Failed to record who was responsible for the delegated pre-screening activities; and/or

- 2) On or around 17 December 2023, you made derogatory remarks about Specsavers such as how they overestimate their financial contribution to their trainees and/or that they do not pay their trainees well or words to that effect; and/or
- 3) On or around 2 February 2024, you:
 - a. Did not perform an appropriate and/or adequate examination and/or assessment of Patient B's eyes in that you:
 - i. Failed to perform a full sight together with a visual fields, test despite Patient B clinically presenting with longstanding frontal headaches; and/or
 - ii. Failed to measure Patient B's near point of convergence despite Patient B's presenting symptoms; and/or
 - b. Failed to maintain adequate records in that you:
 - i. Recorded 'Refracted: unreliable' and failed to record what part of the refraction was unreliable; and/or
 - ii. Failed to record the duration of the near vision symptoms and which eye was affected; and/or
 - iii. Failed to record which supervisor was responsible for the examination; and/or
 - iv. Failed to record who was responsible for the delegated pre-screening activities; and/or
- 4) On or around 2 February 2024, you left the clinic without appropriate authorisation in circumstances where you had not fully completed a patient consultation and/or there were two further patients scheduled to see you; and/or
- 5) Your conduct as set out at 1a)i and/or 1a)ii and/or 1a)iii and/or 1a)iv and/or 1a)v and/or 1b)i and/or 1b)ii and/or 1b)iii and/or 1b)iv and/or 1b)v and/or 1b)viii and/or 1b)ix and/or 1b)x and/or 2 and/or 3a)i and/or 3a)ii and/or 3b)i and/or 3b)ii and/or 3b)iii and/or 3b)iv was unprofessional and/or inappropriate; and/or
- 6) Your conduct as set out at 4) was unprofessional; and/or
- 7) Your conduct as set out at 1b)i and/or 1b)ii and/or 1b)iii and/or 1b)iv and/or 1b)v and/or 1b)vi and/or 1b)vii was dishonest in that you recorded information not discussed and/or incorrectly recorded patient responses and/or recorded tests that were not performed; and/or

And by virtue of the facts set out above, your fitness to practise is impaired by reason of misconduct.

Committee Members:

Clive Powell (Chair/Lay)
Mark Richards (Lay)
Nigel Pilkington (Lay)
Kalpana Theophilus (Optometrist)
Caroline Clark (Optometrist)

Legal Adviser:

Aaminah Khan

Hearings Officer:

Natasha Bance

Transcribers:

Marten Walsh Cherer Limited

If you require further information relating to this hearing, please contact the Council's Hearings Manager at hearings@optical.org.