

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

GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL

F(25)32

AND

PAUL BRINNEN (D-33549)

**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:

Remotely

The substantive hearing will take commence at 9:30am on **Thursday 05 February 2026 – Friday 06 February 2026** by way of video conference or telephone conference facilities.

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

You have the right to attend the hearing and be represented in accordance with rule 21 of the Fitness to Practise Rules 2013.

Euan Napier
Hearings Manager, General Optical Council

17 December 2025

ALLEGATION

The Council alleges that you, Paul Brinnen (D-33549), a registered Dispensing Optician, whilst working at Specsavers [redacted]:

- 1) *Processed the following refunds onto a Mastercard ending in [redacted]:*
 - a. £268, on or around 27 June 2023.
 - b. £229, on or around 29 July 2023.
 - c. £259, on or around 23 December 2023.
- 2) *Processed the following refunds onto a Mastercard ending in [redacted]:*
 - a. £323, on or around 12 June 2023.
 - b. £253, on or around 22 December 2023.
- 3) *On or around 30 August 2023, dispensed two pairs of glasses (frames and coatings) valued at £412 to your [redacted], Ms A, using a two for one discount bringing the total down to £0, without director authorisation.*
- 4) *Your actions as set out at 1 and/or 2 above were dishonest, in that you:*
 - a. *knew that you were processing refunds onto cards belonging to you and/or your [redacted], Ms B;*
 - b. *knew or ought to have known that you were not entitled to the money from these transactions.*
- 5) *Your actions as set out at 3 above were dishonest in that you knew or ought to have known that you were not entitled to authorising this dispense at no cost.*

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

Committee Members: Oluremi Alabi (Chair)
Ben Summerskill (Lay)
Ann McKechin (Lay)
Sarah Baylay (Dispensing Optician)
Jill Perry (Dispensing Optician)

Legal Adviser: Clare Bunting

Hearings Officer: Anwar Henry

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.