

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

**GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL**

**F(24)37**

**AND**

**GURMIT BANSAL (D-17181)**

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**DETERMINATION OF A SUBSTANTIVE REVIEW  
13 FEBRUARY 2026**

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<b>Committee Members:</b>	Sarah Hamilton (Chair) Victoria Smith (Lay) Jacqueline Telfer (Lay) Claire Anstee (Dispensing Optician) Nahid Bennett (Dispensing Optician)
<b>Legal adviser:</b>	Kelly Thomas
<b>GOC Presenting Officer:</b>	Holly Huxtable
<b>Registrant representative:</b>	John Graham (Castara Law)
<b>Registrant present:</b>	Yes
<b>Hearings Officer:</b>	Terence Yates
<b>Immediate Order</b>	Yes
<b>Outcome:</b>	12 months conditions (with review)

## ALLEGATION

*The Council alleges that you, Gurmit Bansal (D-17181), a registered dispensing optician:*

- 1. On one or more occasion, between February 2018 and February 2022, you supplied the patients listed in Schedule A with spectacles with a lower value and/or inferior to the spectacles the patients had originally paid for; and/or*
- 2. Your conduct as set out at 1 above was inappropriate and/or dishonest in that you knew the spectacles provided to the patients were of a cheaper and/or inferior quality to what they paid for and/or you did not refund the patients with the difference in price.*

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

### **Background**

1. At the relevant time, Mr. Bansal (the Registrant) was a director at the Leightons franchise company.
2. On 25 January 2022, a “whistleblower” raised a concern by reporting discrepancies in that the spectacle lenses and coatings being supplied to patients did not match those that had been ordered and paid for by the patient at Leightons in [redacted] “*the Practice*.” It was alleged that patients were receiving spectacle lenses of a type, design, material and/or coating, which was of lower quality and price than that for which they had paid.
3. Leightons completed an initial investigation and met with the Registrant on 4 February 2022, during which he admitted some patient orders that were supplied did not match the product dispensed and paid for by the patient.
4. The GOC supplied evidence in respect of 327 patients. It is the GOC’s case that none of the discrepancies in supply could potentially cause a clinical issue.
5. The Leightons franchise was terminated with immediate effect and the matter was reported to the GOC on 17 February 2022.
6. At the substantive hearing between 20-26 February 2025, the Registrant admitted particulars 1 and 2 and the facts were found proved.

7. The substantive Committee found that the conduct was seriously reprehensible, deplorable, and amounted to serious misconduct.
8. At the impairment stage, both parties accepted the figure for loss to patients as between £15,000-£17,000. The substantive Committee determined that a finding of impairment was necessary to maintain confidence in the profession and in order to uphold proper professional standards. The Committee did not impose an immediate order.
9. At the sanction stage, the Committee determined that a suspension from practice of 12 months was necessary to mark the seriousness of the misconduct.
10. The Committee indicated that a Reviewing Committee may be assisted by the following:
  - The Registrant's engagement at the next Review Hearing;
  - A reflective piece from the Registrant demonstrating the development of further insight and of his understanding of what had led to the misconduct and how this could be prevented in the future;
  - Evidence of the Registrant having undertaken targeted courses relating to honesty and integrity;
  - Evidence of the Registrant's maintenance of knowledge and skills;
  - Further up-to-date testimonials.

## **Substantive Order Review – 13 February 2026**

### **Findings regarding impairment**

11. The Registrant gave oral evidence in relation to current impairment. The Registrant adopted his witness statement dated 12 February 2026. In summary in his written evidence, the Registrant explained that he breached GOC standards by his behaviour, and he fully accepted responsibility for these actions. The Registrant acknowledged that financial pressures, workload, and commercial motivations contributed to his poor judgement but emphasised that these were not excuses. The Registrant described the significant personal, professional, and financial impact of the events and expressed deep remorse for the harm caused to patients, colleagues, and the reputation of the profession. He stated that he had implemented robust safeguards, including enhanced quality control processes, transparent communication and documentation of informed consent, ethical training, ongoing CPD, mentorship, and daily reflective practice. He also confirmed that he had continued working within the limits of his suspension to maintain skills and prioritise patient welfare. Overall, he stated that this experience had strengthened his commitment to ethical, patient-centred practice, continuous improvement, and

rebuilding trust to ensure such misconduct would not recur.

12. In his oral evidence the Registrant stated that his motivation for the misconduct was purely commercial pressure and a desire to avoid financial loss to the practice, and that he wrongly justified his actions to himself at the time for short-term commercial gain. He confirmed that Leightons had compensated the patients and that he had not personally compensated Leightons, explaining that he had indicated a willingness to put matters right but had received no further communication and was separately pursuing sums he believed were owed to him under an agreement relating to equipment, stock, and fixtures. He confirmed he has not held a position of responsibility in his current roles. He explained that although he had previously identified ethics courses, he delayed completing them due to [redacted], but completed probity and ethics training in December 2025. He acknowledged that his belief that the conduct was justified reflected a serious lack of self-awareness. He emphasised that nothing could justify the breach of trust and transparency, and stated that he now reflects daily on his conduct, carefully documents decisions, and prioritises honesty and patient trust. He described the misconduct as a very serious error in judgment, expressed deep remorse, and stated that he has learned from the experience over a four-year period of reflection which he thinks about and reflects on every day. The Registrant stated that he is determined never to repeat such behaviour.
13. On behalf of the GOC, Ms Huxtable submitted that the burden is on the Registrant to demonstrate that his fitness to practise is no longer impaired, and the Committee is not bound by the decisions of the previous Committee. Ms Huxtable acknowledged that the documents provided by the Registrant to some degree address the remedial action set out by the previous substantive Committee. Ms Huxtable indicated that the area of concern is in relation to insight and submitted that the Registrant appears more concerned with the grievance as to the money he is owed by Leightons than the recompense to the patients who suffered loss. Ms Huxtable submitted that it is for the Committee to make its own findings on impairment.
14. On behalf of the Registrant, Mr Graham dealt with each of the recommendations of the previous Committee as follows:
  - *The Registrant's engagement at the next Review Hearing*
15. Mr Graham submitted that the Registrant had attended and engaged with the previous Committee, and this Committee, including giving evidence on both occasions and providing extensive supporting documentation to address the concerns identified.
  - *A reflective piece from the Registrant demonstrating the development of further insight and of his understanding of what had led to the misconduct and how this could be prevented in the future;*

16. The Registrant has supplied a further witness statement containing his reflection. Mr Graham submitted that this included details of safeguards the Registrant has put in place relating to enhanced quality control and order verification; improved communication and informed consent; competence; communication; learning and improvement; auditing; enhanced ethical training and professional development; financial transparency and cost management; mentorship and supervision; and patient care.

- *Evidence of the Registrant having undertaken targeted courses relating to honesty and integrity*

17. Mr Graham outlined the further courses completed by the Registrant including a reflection workshop insight reflection and remediation; the importance of record keeping and ethical practice and a probity and ethics course. Mr Graham submitted that this helped strengthen the Registrant's understanding of honesty, integrity, and the professional responsibilities expected of him.

- *Evidence of the Registrant's maintenance of knowledge and skills*

18. Mr Graham outlined the further CPD points as evidenced in the bundle as evidence that the Registrant has completed continued learning and that he can demonstrate continued competence in practice.

- *Further up-to-date testimonials*

19. Mr Graham submitted that in addition to the references provided from the previous substantive hearing further references were relied upon from [redacted]. Mr Graham submitted that these are very positive references which demonstrate the Registrant's recognition of the findings and remorse, that he takes full responsibility for his mistakes and is seeking to show correction and better practice, with a very positive attitude within the workplace environment.

20. In conclusion, Mr Graham submitted that the Registrant is an asset to the profession and there is a zero risk of repetition. The Registrant has sought to meet all the points of concern from the substantive Committee and has demonstrated appropriate remediation and therefore it was not necessary to make a finding of current impairment.

21. The Legal Adviser outlined that the guidance in relation to substantive order review hearings can be found at *Paragraphs 24.1-24.5 of the Hearings and Indicative Sanctions Guidance ("the Guidance")*. The case of *Clarke v General Optical Council [2017] EWHC 521 (Admin)* established that a review hearing will be dealt with as a substantive hearing and will commence at the impairment stage.

22. The cases of *Abrahaem v GMC EWHC 183 (Admin)* and *Khan v GPhc [2016] UKSC 64* confirm that in a substantive review hearing, there is a persuasive burden upon a Registrant to demonstrate that they are fit to resume unrestricted practice. The Legal Adviser advised that the Committee should consider the current fitness of the registrant to resume practice, judged in light of what they have, or have not, done

since the substantive hearing and whether they remain impaired.

23. The Legal Adviser also outlined *Paragraphs 16.1 to 16.7* of the *Guidance* in relation to impairment. The Legal Adviser advised the Committee to consider the two separate elements of impairment namely the public component, which concerns the reputation of the profession and upholding professional standards, and the personal component which concerns the risk of repetition and insight displayed on the part of the Registrant as in *Cohen v GMC (2008) EWHC 581*. The Legal Adviser also highlighted the four questions in the *Grant* case. Finally, the Legal Adviser advised the Committee that at the impairment stage, there is also no burden or standard of proof, but ultimately it is a question of judgement for the Committee alone.
24. The Committee accepted the advice of the Legal Adviser, considered the GOC bundle served, the reflective statement from the Registrant and the submissions by both Counsel. The Committee reminded itself that it was not bound by the findings of the previous Committee on impairment or sanction.
25. The Committee considered the *Guidance* at *paragraphs 16.1 to 16.7*, the cases of *Clarke* and *Cohen* and the four questions in the *Grant* case, namely:
  - a. *'Has [the Registrant] in the past acted and/or is [he] liable in the future to act so as to put a patient or patients at unwarranted risk of harm; and/or*
  - b. *Has [the Registrant] in the past and/or is [he] liable in the future to bring the medical profession into disrepute; and/or*
  - c. *Has [the Registrant] in the past breached and/or is [he] liable in the future to breach one of the fundamental tenets of the medical profession;*
  - d. *has in the past acted dishonestly and/or is liable to act dishonestly in the future.*
26. The Committee also considered the GOC's overriding objective, and gave equal consideration to each of its limbs as set out below:

*"To protect, promote and maintain the health, safety and well-being of the public, the protection of the public by promoting and maintaining public confidence in the profession and promoting and maintaining proper professional standards and conduct."*
27. The Committee first considered the questions in the *Grant* case with regard to the Registrant's *past* behaviour.
28. The Committee noted that the Registrant's clinical skills were not of concern and no patients had been put at risk, therefore the Committee did not consider limb a) of the *Grant* criteria to be relevant and did not consider a finding of impairment on public protection grounds.
29. The Committee considered the extent and seriousness of the Registrant's dishonesty. The Committee noted that the dishonesty occurred over a significant

period of time and involved 327 patients. The dishonesty was conducted for the purpose of financial gain. The Committee's view was that the dishonesty in this case was serious and systematic, involving multiple patients, and was in breach of several *Standards*. It also involved a significant disregard for patient trust. The Committee concluded that the Registrant's misconduct had, *in the past*, brought the reputation of the profession into disrepute, breached fundamental tenets of the profession and been dishonest and therefore limbs b), c) and d) of *Grant* were engaged.

30. The Committee then went on to consider the issues in the case of *Cohen* as found at *Paragraph 16.1* of the *Guidance*, as to whether the Registrant's conduct was remediable, whether it had been remedied and whether the conduct is likely to be repeated in future.
31. The Committee was of the view that the misconduct proved related to conduct that was dishonest and had occurred over a period of four years and in respect of 327 patients. Given the nature of the misconduct which involved repeated dishonesty, the Committee considered that this was very difficult to remediate, although it was possible.
32. Secondly, in considering *Cohen*, the Committee considered whether the misconduct has been remedied since the events which took place between 2018 and 2022. The Committee noted the oral and written evidence provided and the steps that the Registrant had taken in order to remediate at the point of the substantive hearing. The Committee also considered the further evidence served for this hearing and whether the Registrant had addressed the issues outlined by the substantive Committee.
33. The Committee considered that the Registrant had engaged with this hearing by attending and giving oral evidence as well as supplying written documents to support his position. The Committee considered it positive that the Registrant had supplied evidence of having undertaken targeted courses relating to honesty and integrity. The Committee was assisted by the reflective piece from the Registrant demonstrating his developing insight and his understanding of what had led to the misconduct and how this could be prevented in the future. The Committee also considered the evidence of the Registrant's maintenance of knowledge and skills in relation to the courses he has undertaken and his current work practice. Finally, the Committee had been assisted by positive further up-to-date testimonials.
34. The Committee considered the oral evidence of the Registrant, specifically in relation to remediation and insight. In his oral evidence, when asked about his motivation for the misconduct, the Registrant stated "*...we did not want to lose any money. I felt it was justified at the time - nothing more than commercial pressures and considerations.*" The Registrant went on to say that it was for the commercial gain of the Practice and it was a lapse of judgment. The Committee considered that the Registrant was unclear as to why he stated that the misconduct was motivated

by a desire not to lose money. It was not clear to the Committee how the practice would have lost money if the appropriate quality of spectacles and lenses had been provided to each patient, as there was an element of profit factored into the sale price. The Committee therefore did not understand the Registrant's contention that he committed the misconduct so as to not lose money for the Practice. The Committee was also concerned that, despite the Registrant's evidence that he had been thinking about this case every day over a period of four years, he did not consider his dishonesty to be more serious than a 'lapse' or 'error' in judgment which he attributed to a "*lack of self-awareness*" at the time. The Committee determined that the misconduct was more fundamental than a lack of self-awareness and this left the Committee with concerns as to the Registrant's insight. The Committee was not satisfied that the Registrant had fully developed his insight into his motivation for the dishonest misconduct and it was not satisfied that the conduct had been sufficiently remediated.

35. Thirdly, from *Cohen*, the Committee considered the risk of repetition. The Committee noted that the test in the case of *Cohen* was whether the misconduct was "*highly unlikely to be repeated.*" The Committee took into account the fact that the Registrant had taken all the practical steps to address the concerns of the previous Committee. However, the Committee considered the Registrant's oral evidence to show a lack of learning from those steps. The Committee was concerned when the Registrant stated that the misconduct was "*a complete loss of self-awareness in my actions. A very serious error in judgment. I have not taken it lightly.*" The Committee did not consider that the dishonesty found was an 'error in judgment' or a 'lack of self-awareness,' but a serious breach of the professional *Standards*. The Committee determined that the Registrant had started to develop insight, but had not yet demonstrated sufficient insight to satisfy it that the Registrant's conduct was highly unlikely to be repeated. The Committee therefore concluded there still remains a risk of repetition.
36. The Committee returned to the *Grant* questions with reference to the Registrant's *future* risk. Given its findings, the Committee considered limbs b), c) and d) to be relevant.
37. The Committee considered whether a finding of impairment was necessary on the basis of the wider public interest in order to uphold proper professional standards and public confidence in the profession. The Committee was of the view that given the seriousness of the dishonesty, the lack of fully developed insight and remediation, and the fact that there still remains a risk of repetition, an informed and fair-minded member of the public, if they were appraised of the facts, would be very concerned, and public confidence in the profession would consequently be undermined, if a finding of impairment was not made. The Committee determined that it was necessary to make a finding of impairment in this case in order to maintain confidence in the profession and in order to uphold proper professional standards.

38. The Committee therefore found that the Registrant's fitness to practise is currently impaired.

### **Findings on sanction**

39. The Committee next went on to consider what would be the appropriate and proportionate sanction, if any, to impose in this case.

40. The Committee heard submissions from Ms Huxtable on behalf of the Council, who submitted that an extended period of suspension should be considered. Despite the Registrant undertaking a targeted and significant period of reflection, Ms Huxtable submitted that the Committee's findings suggested there was still a lack of insight and anything less than suspension would be inappropriate.

41. Mr Graham submitted that the Committee should have regard to the principles of proportionality and weigh the interests of the public against those of the Registrant. Mr Graham submitted that the Registrant has made significant progress in addressing the concerns raised previously and has advanced his position as a safe practitioner. He has provided comprehensive material, has not repeated the issues since the original determination four years ago, and has continued working in the optical industry with supporting references from multiple practices. While no order can be made, Mr Graham urged the Committee that if it was to consider an extended suspension, the Registrant should be given credit for proactively addressing the issues, and the Committee should consider a shorter suspension period than 12 months.

42. The Legal Adviser referred to the Guidance at Paragraphs 20-23 and 13F - 13H of the Opticians Act 1989 in outlining the sanctions available to the Committee. The Legal Adviser stated that the sanctions guidance is not a 'straitjacket', but if the Committee were to deviate, they must give reasons. It is not the purpose of sanctions to punish, but the Committee should consider proportionality and balance the interests of the public against those of the Registrant. The Legal Adviser referred to the case of *Bolton v Law Society* (1994) 1 WLR 512, which stated:

*"The reputation of the profession is more important than the fortunes of any individual member. Membership of a profession brings many benefits, but that is part of the price."*

43. The Legal Adviser also outlined Paragraphs 22.4 to 22.6 of the Guidance in relation to sanctions on dishonesty. The Legal Adviser advised that the Committee should, according to Paragraph 8.3 of the Guidance, work through the sanctions starting with no order and then the least restrictive first.

44. Mr Graham reminded the Committee that the case of *Bolton* should be followed with caution, it being in relation to the solicitors profession, a different regulator.

45. In reaching its decision on sanction the Committee took into account the legal advice, the submissions from both parties, the evidence from the Registrant and the previous substantive findings. Throughout its deliberations the Committee had

regard to the Guidance, in particular paragraphs 20-23, as well as the overarching objective.

46. The Committee considered the following to be aggravating features:

- a) The persistent and prolonged nature of the dishonesty which ceased only when uncovered by an investigation;
- b) The abuse of his patients' trust, where they were unlikely, if at all, to have been aware that the product they received was not the product they paid for;
- c) The Registrant's actions were carried out for the purpose of financial gain to his business;
- d) The Registrant had not demonstrated sufficient insight.

47. The Committee considered that the following mitigating factors were present:

- a) The Registrant has demonstrated genuine remorse;
- b) The Registrant made full admissions at the outset of the investigatory process by Leightons;
- c) The Registrant has fully co-operated with the GOC's proceedings;
- d) The Registrant has no previous disciplinary issues and prior to the misconduct had a lengthy unblemished career;
- e) There had been no further concerns raised since 2022;
- f) The Registrant had demonstrated developing insight;
- g) Positive testimonials had been provided;
- h) The Registrant had met all of the requirements set out by the previous Committee.

48. The Committee considered and weighed the aggravating and mitigating factors above when applying the Guidance at paragraph 8.3 and considered the possible sanctions, starting with the least severe, that being to take no further action.

49. The Committee considered that the dishonest conduct of the Registrant was towards the higher end of the scale, due the length of time that the dishonesty occurred, and number of patients and amounts involved. The Committee considered that taking no further action was not proportionate nor sufficient given the seriousness of the case and the public interest concerns. Furthermore, there were no exceptional circumstances to justify taking no action in this case.

50. The Committee considered the issue of a financial penalty order. However, it was of the view that such an order was not appropriate. The Committee considered that this sanction would not be a sufficient sanction to meet the public interest. Further, it had limited information about the financial position of the Registrant and the extent

of his direct financial gain remained unclear.

51. The Committee considered the Guidance at paragraph 21.25 in relation to the imposition of conditions and the list of factors that indicate when conditions might be appropriate:

- a. No evidence of harmful deep-seated personality or attitudinal problems;
- b. Identifiable areas of registrant's practise in need of assessment or retraining;
- c. Evidence that registrant has insight into any health problems and is prepared to agree to abide by conditions regarding medical condition, treatment, and supervision;
- d. Potential and willingness to respond positively to retraining;
- e. Patients will not be put in danger either directly or indirectly as a result of conditional registration itself;
- f. The conditions will protect patients during the period they are in force. g. It is possible to formulate appropriate and practical conditions to impose on registration and make provision as to how conditions will be monitored.

52. The Committee considered that the primary purpose of any sanction was to protect the public. Whilst conditions are usually appropriate for clinical or health concerns, the Committee appreciated that it was unusual to use conditions in a dishonesty case. However, the Committee reminded itself of its findings in relation to remediation and insight. In particular, it was mindful that it was not possible for the Registrant to demonstrate honesty and trustworthiness in a registered position without being able to practise. The Committee considered that there were suitable conditions to protect the public against the risk of repetition of dishonesty if the Registrant were to be supervised whilst in practice and considered that there would be appropriate, proportionate, workable, and measurable conditions which could meet the concerns.

53. Before determining any conditions, the Committee tested its findings against the sanction of suspension. In particular, the Committee considered the list of factors contained within paragraph 21.29, that indicate that a suspension may be appropriate, which are as follows:

- a. *A serious instance of misconduct where a lesser sanction is not sufficient.*
- b. *No evidence of harmful deep-seated personality or attitudinal problems.*
- c. *No evidence of repetition of behaviour since incident.*
- d. *The Committee is satisfied the registrant has insight and does not pose a significant risk of repeating behaviour.*

*e. e. ... (not applicable)*

54. The Committee was of the view that factors b) and c) were engaged in this case. Whilst the Committee noted that the dishonesty engaged in by the Registrant demonstrated a clear attitudinal problem it did not conclude that this was an indication of a harmful deep-seated personality problem. The Committee considered that the Registrant has worked without restrictions or issues since the misconduct, albeit in a non-registered capacity, and noted the Registrant's co-operation with these regulatory proceedings, his early admissions to the allegations and his genuine remorse. The Committee also took into account the testimonials from current colleagues and his employer, who are aware of the findings of misconduct, and who all consider the Registrant to be honest.
55. The Committee has determined that the Registrant's insight is limited and concluded that there remains some risk of repetition in respect of the misconduct. However, the Committee considered that there was not a "significant risk of repeating behaviour", given the Registrant's willingness to address his behaviour, his expression of genuine remorse during his oral evidence and his engagement in these proceedings to date. The Committee did not consider factor a) to be engaged and concluded that a lesser sanction of conditions would be sufficient to meet its concerns. The Committee also reminded itself that there were no patient safety issues in this case, and the previous Committee's main rationale for imposing a suspension was to mark the public interest. The Committee was of the view that any further period of suspension would be disproportionately punitive.
56. The Committee considered in all the circumstances that the most proportionate sanction would be a lengthy period of conditions that would mark the seriousness of the misconduct and afford the Registrant the opportunity to further develop his insight and show remediation whilst in practice.
57. The Committee did not consider erasure to be appropriate in this case given that the Registrant did not seek to cover up his dishonesty at any stage and made early admissions. Further, there was no evidence of patient harm, no evidence of any impact on vulnerable patients or evidence of any violation of patient rights. The Committee considered in all of the circumstances of this case that the behaviour of the Registrant was not fundamentally incompatible with being a registered professional in accordance with paragraph 21.35 of the Guidance.
58. The Committee had regard to the section on dishonesty at paragraph 22.4 of the Guidance. It noted that there was no blanket rule or presumption that erasure is the appropriate sanction in all cases of dishonesty and that it was required to balance the circumstances of the case against the effect a finding of dishonesty has on public confidence in the profession.
59. In considering the principle of proportionality, the Committee took into account the Registrant's interests and the importance of balancing those against the public interest. In order to ensure public confidence in the profession and uphold proper

professional standards, the Committee concluded that conditions were the appropriate and proportionate sanction.

60. The Committee considered that the following conditions would be appropriate:

***“You, [the Registrant]:***

- 1. Must inform the following parties that your registration is subject to conditions. You should do this within two weeks of the date this order takes effect.***
  - a. Any organisation or person employing or contracting with you to provide paid or unpaid optical services, whether or not in the UK (to include any locum agency).***
  - b. Any prospective employer or contractor where you have applied to provide optical services, whether or not in the UK.***
  - c. The Chair of the Local Optometric Committee for the area where you provide optometric services.***
  - d. The NHS body in whose ophthalmic performer or contractor list you are included or are seeking inclusion.***
- 2. You must inform the GOC within two weeks if:***
  - a. You accept any paid or unpaid employment or contract, whether or not in the UK, to provide optical services.***
  - b. You apply for any paid or unpaid employment or contract to provide optical services outside the UK.***
  - c. You cease working. This information must include the contact details of your prospective employer/ contractor and (if the role includes providing NHS ophthalmic services) the relevant NHS body.***
- 3. You must inform the GOC within two weeks if you become aware of any criminal investigation or disciplinary investigation against you.***
- 4. Must not practise as a director or owner of a business;***
- 5. Must identify a workplace supervisor who would be prepared to monitor your compliance with:***
  - a. Not practising as a director or owner of a business; and***
  - b. Upholding professional standards and compliance with probity and ethics.***
- 6. Ask the GOC to approve your workplace supervisor within 4 weeks of the date this order takes effect. If you are not employed, you must ask us to approve your workplace supervisor before you start work.***

- 7. Identify another supervisor if the GOC does not agree to your being monitored by the proposed supervisor.**
- 8. Place yourself under the supervision of the supervisor and remain under his/her supervision for the duration of these conditions.**
- 9. At least once a month meet your supervisor to review compliance with your conditions.**
- 10. Prior to the review hearing you must request a written report from your supervisor detailing how you are complying with upholding professional standards and probity and ethics, this report to be provided to the GOC.**
- 11. Inform the GOC of any proposed change to your supervisor and again place yourself under the supervision of someone who has been agreed by the GOC.”**

61. The Committee determined that the conditional registration order should be for 12 months, which was necessary to mark the seriousness of the misconduct, in light of the aggravating factors identified. This would also give the Registrant sufficient time to further reflect on his behaviour and develop further insight. The Committee considered that a shorter period would not be appropriate given the seriousness of the case, and that 12-months would be sufficient to ensure public confidence in the profession and to uphold proper standards.

62. The Committee also determined that a review hearing should be held between four and six weeks prior to the expiration of this order.

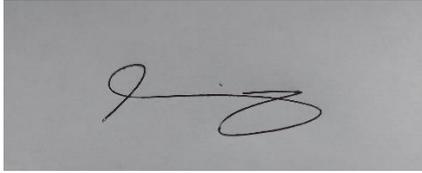
63. A Reviewing Committee may be assisted by the following:

- *The Registrant’s engagement at the next Review Hearing;*
- *A further updated reflective piece from the Registrant reflecting on this Committee’s decision and to demonstrate further development of his insight and accountability as to the misconduct;*
- *Further up-to-date testimonials.*

64. The Committee noted that the current suspension order will run until 26 March 2026, at which point the conditional order of registration will commence.

**Chair of the Committee: Sarah Hamilton**

**Signature**



**Date: 13 February 2026**

**Registrant: Gurmit Bansal**

**Signature *present and received via email***

**Date: 13 February 2026**

<b>FURTHER INFORMATION</b>
<b>Transcript</b>
A full transcript of the hearing will be made available for purchase in due course.
<b>Appeal</b>
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).
<b>Professional Standards Authority</b>
<p>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.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>Further information about the PSA can be obtained from its website at <a href="http://www.professionalstandards.org.uk">www.professionalstandards.org.uk</a> or by telephone on 020 7389 8030.</p>
<b>Effect of orders for suspension or erasure</b>
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.
<b>Contact</b>
If you require any further information, please contact the Council's Hearings Manager at Level 29, One Canada Square, London, E14 5AA or by telephone, on 020 7580 3898.