

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

GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL

F(25)43

AND

CHINAZA OKOLI (01-34132)

**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 commence at 9:30am on **Monday 8 – Thursday 11 June 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 **Chinaza Okoli** is impaired by virtue of the provisions contained in section 13D(2) of the Opticians Act 1989.

Taz Chisango
Hearings Manager, General Optical Council

07 May 2026

ALLEGATION

The Council alleges that you, Chinaza Okoli (01-34132), a registered optometrist whilst employed at Specsavers, [redacted]:

- 1) On or around 29 January 2025, you obtained a Statement of Fitness for Work for social security or Statutory Sick Pay form and submitted it to your employer for the purpose of declaring sickness and/or to reduce your contracted work hours between the period of 22 January 2025 to 22 February 2025.
- 2) On or around 31 January 2025 you obtained a Statement of Fitness for Work for social security or Statutory Sick Pay form and submitted it to your employer for the purpose declaring sickness and/or to reduce your contracted work hours between the period of 22 January 2025 to 22 February 2025.
- 3) Having submitted Statement of Fitness for Work for social security or Statutory Sick Pay form(s) to your employer, for the purpose declaring sickness and/or to reduce your contracted work hours, you conducted work as a locum optometrist at Vision Express, [redacted] on:
 - a) 24 January 2025;
 - b) 31 January 2025;
 - c) 1 February 2025;
- 4) Your actions at 1) and 2) and 3) were:
 - a) Misleading; and/or
 - b) Dishonest in that you knowingly submitted Statement of Fitness for Work for social security or Statutory Sick Pay forms to your employer, for the purpose of amending and/or reducing your contracted work hours despite conducting work as a locum optometrist at Vision Express, [redacted].

Committee Members: Adrian Smith (Chair/Lay)
Joy Tweed (Lay)
Kevin Connolly (Lay)
Ann Barrett (Optometrist)
Alex Howard (Optometrist)

Legal Adviser: Hala Helmi

Hearings Officer: TBC

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.