

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

GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL

F(25)21

AND

FAST POP SPECS LTD (CO-39769)

**DETERMINATION OF A SUBSTANTIVE HEARING
27 NOVEMBER 2025**

Committee Members:	Gerry Wareham (Chair) Mark McLaren (Lay) Vivienne Geary (Lay) Peena Govind (Optometrist) Sue Deal (Dispensing Optician)
Legal adviser:	Kelly Thomas
GOC Presenting Officer:	Abimbola Johnson
Registrant present/represented:	Present and not represented: Mr Peter Black Mr Daniel Barnes
Registrant representative:	N/A
Hearings Officer:	Terence Yates
Facts found proved:	Particulars 1 and 2 – admitted and proved
Facts not found proved:	N/A
Registration decision:	Removal of registration

ALLEGATION

The Council alleges that you, Fast Pop Specs Ltd, a registered body corporate:

- 1. On or around 6 August 2023, as part of your application for admission to the General Optical Council ("GOC") register as a body corporate under Section 9(2)(c) of the Opticians Act 1989 ("the Act") you submitted and/or or caused to be submitted, a Body Corporate Registration/Restoration Application Form Addendum' ("the Form") in which you declared that:*

Fees for work as ophthalmic opticians or dispensing opticians and receipt for optical appliances designed to correct, relieve or remedy a defect of sight, were together [not more than] 40 per cent of the total receipts of the body corporates for sales and services in the year.

- 2. The Form was not correct in that the greater part of your business activities consisted of the fitting and supply of optical appliances.*

Because of the matters stated above, your entry in the GOC register under Section 9(2)(c) of the Act was incorrectly made, and should be removed under Section 13J(1).

DETERMINATION

Admissions in relation to the particulars of the allegation

1. Mr Black and Mr Barnes, attended the hearing to represent Fast Pop Specs Ltd ("FPS"), the registered body corporate. Mr Black and Mr Barnes admitted particulars 1 and 2 of the allegation.

Background to the allegations

2. On 6 August 2023, the Registrant (FPS) applied to the General Optical Council ("GOC") to be registered as a Category C business under Section 9(2)(c) of the Opticians Act 1989 ("the Act").
3. In an addendum to their application dated 10 August 2023, the Registrant provided certification from Company A confirming that the Registrant's fees for Ophthalmic or Dispensing Opticians and receipts of optical appliances designed to correct, relieve or remedy a defect of sight were together not more than 40% of the total receipts of the body corporate for sales and services in the year.
4. The GOC was not provided with (nor did it ask for) any underlying accounting records used by Company A in order to make that certification.
5. The GOC granted the Registrant's application on 23 August 2023.
6. On 15 February 2024, the Registrant renewed their registration with the GOC.

7. On 11 September 2024, after a number of concerns were raised with the GOC about areas of the Registrant's practices, the GOC wrote to the Registrant asking them to provide the underlying accounting records that Company A used to complete the Addendum Form. The letter explained that when a body corporate such as the Registrant makes an application to the Council to be registered as a Category C business under *Section 9(2)(c)* of the *Act*, it must satisfy the Council that the greater part of its business (i.e. 51%) consists of activities that are not the testing of sight and the fitting and supply of optical appliances. The letter enclosed the GOC's original application and certification from the Registrant's accountants.
8. The GOC received a response from the Registrant's solicitors, [redacted] dated 10 October 2024 explaining that it no longer uses Company A due to a breakdown in the relationship. The Registrant also advised that they now have new accountants and that their accounts had been extended to June 2024, meaning that they will not be due until March 2025 (pp30). The letter confirmed that "In its simplest form [FPS]' business model involves customers providing their prescription; choosing their frames; choosing their lenses and then collecting their glasses within 20 mins where possible. None of the kiosks offer eye testing services or anything other than what is described, indeed what was described on the registration application, therefore there has never been any obvious or known need to keep separate figures; it is not even clear what such a breakdown would look like albeit the directors are more than happy to take advice, if available."
9. On 24 October 2024, the GOC through its solicitors, Company A wrote to [redacted] asking for further clarification, asking specifically what percentage of its business activities covered the fitting and supply of optical appliances designed to correct, relieve or remedy a defect of sight both at the point it applied for registration in August 2023 and as at the date of the letter.
10. On 12 November 2024, [redacted] replied explaining that 100% of the Registrant's business related to the fitting and supply of optical appliances and that had been the case both at registration and since.
11. On 12 March 2025, the Registrant requested to withdraw from the Body Corporate Register. The GOC advised that they could not be removed until a final decision was made in relation to ongoing fitness to practise proceedings

Findings in relation to the facts

12. As the allegations were admitted, the Committee determined that the facts in Particulars 1 and 2 of the Allegation were proved as per *Rule 40(6)* of the *Fitness to Practise Rules 2013* ("the Rules").

Decision of the Body Corporate registration

13. The Committee then heard submissions as to whether it should direct that the body corporate should be removed from the register.

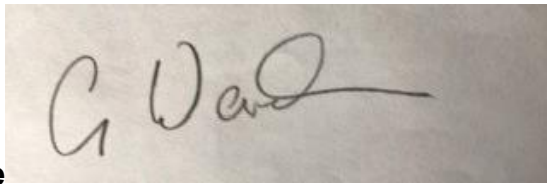
14. Ms Johnson, on behalf of the GOC, submitted that the parties are in agreement that the Registrant should never have been entered onto the register because it was agreed that 100% of their business consisted of the fitting and supply of optical appliances. The GOC accepted that it was never correct for the Registrant to be on the register, and the registration was made in error.
15. Ms Johnson submitted that there had been some concerns around other matters and initially the Registrant had requested not to renew its entry on the register. Initially the GOC took the position that the Registrant must stay on the register whilst these concerns were being investigated. However, the GOC have considered this matter in full and now submit that removal is appropriate. Ms Johnson submitted that there are no remaining concerns around the protection of the public, and there are no adequate public protection or public interest reasons for the Registrant to remain on the register.
16. Mr Black, on behalf of the Registrant, agreed with the GOC submissions.
17. The Legal Adviser outlined again the *Opticians Act 1989 section 13J(1)* and advised that as the substantive particulars of the allegation have been found proved, the Committee should look to the *Act* which states that it “*may*” direct that the body corporate be removed from the register “*if they think fit.*”
18. The Legal Adviser advised that there was no legal test or burden of proof that seemed to apply, the Committee should use its own professional judgment. The Committee should note that the absence of the words “must” or “shall” suggests that it would not be an automatic removal following the findings of fact. The Committee should give the words their ordinary meaning and consider all the circumstances of the case.
19. The Committee determined that it thought it fit for the Registrant to be removed from the register. It accepted the submissions of the parties that the Registrant made an incorrect declaration and had been incorrectly added to the register. The Committee noted the submissions of the GOC that there were no public protection or public interest concerns to support continued registration. The Committee determined that if the Registrant were allowed to continue on the register, given the circumstances outlined, it would mean that the register itself would be inaccurate. The Committee considered it was in the interests of the public to maintain an accurate GOC register and therefore the Committee thought it fit to remove the Registrant.
20. The Committee directed that Fast Pop Specs Ltd (FPS) should be removed from the body corporate register.

Immediate order

21. The Committee accepted the submissions of Ms Johnson that it does not have any power to consider an immediate order according to *section 13I* of the *Opticians Act 1989*.

22. The Legal Adviser outlined that this is an appealable decision according to *section 23G(1)(b)* of the *Opticians Act 1989*, and therefore, subject to any appeal, the removal will come into effect following the 28 days appeals period.

Chair of the Committee: Gerry Wareham

A photograph of a handwritten signature in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured surface. The signature appears to be 'G. Wareham' written in a cursive, flowing style.

Signature

Date: 27 November 2025

Registrant: Fast Pop Specs Ltd

Signature *reps present and received via email*

Date: 27 November 2025

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	
<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 www.professionalstandards.org.uk or by telephone on 020 7389 8030.</p>	
Contact	
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.	