

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

GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL

F(25)22

AND

MEERA PATEL (01-22815)

**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 – **09:30 on Monday 02 March – Tuesday 03 March 2026** at the GOC offices:
Level 29, One Canada Square, London, E14 5AA.

Remotely – at **09:30 on Wednesday 04 March – Monday 09 March 2026** 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 **Meera Patel** is impaired by virtue of the provisions contained in section 13D(2) of the Opticians Act 1989.

Taz Chisango
Hearings Manager, General Optical Council
16 February 2026

ALLEGATION

The Council alleges that you, Ms Meera Patel (01-22815), a registered Optometrist whilst employed by [redacted] t/a Boots Opticians:

1. On an unknown date you submitted the Supplier Details Form which included your personal bank account details to [redacted] so that you could receive payment of referral fees into your personal bank account; and/or
2. You used the Boots Opticians company stamp on the supplier details form to give the impression that the details provided on the form were submitted on behalf of the business; and/or
3. On or around the following dates you received four payments to your personal bank account from [redacted] totalling £370;
 - a. 24 February 2023 payment of £40
 - b. 24 February 2023 payment of £200
 - c. 28 March 2023 payment of £65
 - d. 31 August 2023 payment of £65
4. Your conduct as set out above at 1, 2 and 3 was inappropriate as it was against your employer's company policy; and/or
5. Dishonest in that you knew:
 - a. It was against your employer's company policy and acted regardless;
 - b. The information you provided [redacted] was misleading;
 - c. You were not entitled to the money from [redacted]; and/or
 - d. You submitted the supplier detail form in an attempt to gain money from [redacted] for your own personal gain;

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

Committee Members:

Sara Nathan (Lay)

Ann McKechin (Lay)

Ian Hanson (Lay)

Iftab Akram (Optometrist)

Annabelle Maguire (Optometrist)

Legal Adviser:

Kelly Thomas

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.