

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

GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL

F(26)21

AND

AJAYKUMAR PATEL (01-21128)

**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 2 November to Tuesday 3 November 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 **Ajaykumar Patel** is impaired by virtue of the provisions contained in section 13D(2) of the Opticians Act 1989.

Euan Napier
Hearings Manager, General Optical Council

28 September 2026

ALLEGATION

The Council alleges that in relation to you, Ajaykumar Patel (01-21128), a registered Optometrist:

1) On 5 January 2026 at Derby Crown Court, you were convicted of:

- i. Count 1 – Adult attempt to engage in sexual communication with a child, contrary to section 1(1) of the Criminal Attempts Act 1981;
- ii. Count 2 – Attempt to cause / incite a girl 13 to 15 to engage in sexual activity – offender 18 or over – penetration, contrary to section 1(1) of the Criminal Attempts Act 1981;
- iii. Count 3 – Attempt to cause / incite a girl 13 to 15 to engage in sexual activity – offender 18 or over – penetration, contrary to section 1(1) of the Criminal Attempts Act 1981;
- iv. Count 4 – Arrange / facilitate commission of offence of sexual activity with child / cause / incite child to engage – penetration, contrary to section 14 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003;
- v. Count 5 – Adult attempt to meet a girl under 16 years of age following grooming, contrary to section 1(1) of the Criminal Attempts Act 1981;

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

Committee Members: Gerry Wareham (Chair/Lay)
Ian Hanson (Lay)
Mark McLaren (Lay)
Christian Dutton (Optometrist)
Ann Barrett (Optometrist)

Legal Adviser: Francis Graydon

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.