

**BEFORE THE REGISTRATION APPEALS COMMITTEE  
OF THE GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL**

**GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL**

**F(26)04**

**AND**

**STUART TOWERS (01-12964)**

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**NOTICE OF INQUIRY  
SUBSTANTIVE HEARING**

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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 13 July – Friday 17 July 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 Stuart Towers is impaired by virtue of the provisions contained in section 13D(2) of the Opticians Act 1989.

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Taz Chisango

Hearings Manager, General Optical Council

15 June 2026

## ALLEGATION

*The Council alleges that you, Mr Stuart Towers (01-12964), a registered Optometrist:*

- 1. On 9 October 2021, you did not conduct an appropriate assessment of Patients A's eyes in that you;*
  - (a) Failed to detect signs of a choroidal naevus temporal to the macula of the right eye; and/or*
  - (b) Failed to assess whether the choroidal naevus temporal to the macula of the right eye was benign or malignant;*
  
- 2. On 9 October 2021, you did not communicate effectively with Patient A in that you;*
  - (a) Did not take a clear and accurate family history of glaucoma;*
  - (b) Failed to advise Patient A that she had a choroidal naevus temporal to the macula of the right eye; and/or*
  - (c) Failed to advise Patient A whether the choroidal naevus temporal to the macula of the right eye was benign or malignant;*
  
- 3. On 9 October 2021, you did not maintain an adequate patient record in that you;*
  - (a) Did not record a clear and accurate family history of glaucoma;*
  - (b) Failed to record that Patient A had a choroidal naevus temporal to the macula of the right eye; and/or*
  - (c) Failed to record whether the choroidal naevus was benign or malignant;*
  - (d) Failed to record advice given to Patient A regarding a finding of a choroidal naevus temporal to the macula of the right eye; and/or*
  
- 4. On 2 September 2023, you did not communicate effectively with Patient A in that you;*
  - (a) Did not take a clear and accurate family history of glaucoma;*
  - (b) Failed to advise Patient A that she had High Intraocular Pressures which were outside the range of normality; and/or*
  - (c) Failed to advise Patient A of the risks associated with High Intraocular Pressures;*
  - (d) Failed to advise Patient A that she had a choroidal naevus temporal to the macula of the right eye; and/or*
  
  - (e) Failed to advise Patient A whether the choroidal naevus was benign or malignant;*
  
- 5. On 2 September 2023, you did not maintain an adequate patient record in that*

you;

- (a) Did not record a clear and accurate family history of glaucoma; and/or*
- (b) Failed to record advice given to Patient A regarding High Intraocular Pressures in her eyes;*
- (c) Failed to record advice given to Patient A regarding a finding of a choroidal naevus temporal to the macula of the right eye;*

*6. On 2 September 2023, you did not refer Patient A to the hospital eye service for an emergency referral due to High Intraocular Pressures in Patient A's eyes;*

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

**Committee Members:** Louise Fox (Chair)  
Lisa Hill (Lay)  
Ben Summerskill (Lay)  
Gemma O'Rourke (Optometrist)  
Louise Gow (Optometrist)

**Legal Adviser:** Hala Helmi

**Hearings Officer:** Terence Yates

**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](mailto:hearings@optical.org).