

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

GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL

F(24)47-50

AND

**MS BANSRI RUGHANI (01-23626)
MS MEERA PATEL (01-32451)
MS SAPNA BARIYA (D-13202)
MS MANEEKA KOTHARI (01-35047)**

**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 19 January 2026** by way of video conference or telephone conference facilities.

Please note the full duration of the scheduled hearing:

**19-23 January 2026
2-4 February & 10-12 February 2026
27 April – 1 May 2026
22-30 June 2026**

The Inquiry will be based upon the allegation submitted by the Council (see below) and will determine whether the fitness to practise of **Bansri Rughani, Meera Patel, Sapna Bariya and Maneeka Kothari** is impaired by virtue of the provisions contained in section 13D(2) of the Opticians Act 1989.

Euan Napier
Hearings Manager, General Optical Council

22 December 2025

ALLEGATION (Ms Bansri Rughani)

The Council alleges that in relation to you, Ms Bansri Rughani (01-23626), a registered optometrist, whilst you were a director and practising optometrist at [redacted] Visionplus Limited [redacted] ('the Store') around between 25 March 2009 and 30 November 2021:

1. *On one or more occasions intentionally did the following, and / or encouraged and / or pressurised members of staff to do the following:*
 - a. *provide OCT scans which were inappropriate and / or not clinically indicated,*
 - b. *charge for OCT scans without advising the patient it was optional,*
 - c. *misdiagnose patient(s),*
 - d. *recommend eyecare products which were not clinically indicated for:*
 - i. *dry eye conditions, and / or*
 - ii. *blocked glands,*
 - e. *overcharge for certain eye care products,*
 - f. *offer an "express service" for collecting glasses,*
 - g. *produce receipts which were not itemised and / or did not accurately reflect all the patients' purchases*
 - h. *not accurately record the products / services purchased on Specsavers' Socrates system,*
 - i. *dispense high index lenses when not clinically indicated and / or without offering the patient an informed choice,*
 - j. *not provide patient(s) with a copy of their prescription*
2. *In respect of 1 (e) and (f) you knew you were not permitted to set these prices and / or offer this service,*
3. *In respect of 1 (g) and (h) you intended to disguise from the patient what particular products / services had cost them, and / or to disguise from Specsavers that you were offering an "express service" and knew or ought to have known that:*
4. *Your actions at 1 a-h, 2 and 3 were dishonest*
5. *On one or more occasions you intentionally did and / or allowed and / or acquiesced in the insertion of the following false information in patient records:*
 - a. *email address(es) linked to you as the patient's personal email address, and / or*
 - b. *the optician's address as the patient's home address, and / or*

- c. recommendations for products prior to any examination being undertaken
- 6. On one or more occasions you did and / or allowed and / or requested the creation of:
 - a. false email accounts for the purpose of submitting false patient feedback,
 - b. false patient feedback which was submitted to the MAZE Customer Service Portal
- 7. Your actions at 5 a-c and 6 a-b, were dishonest
- 8. On one or more occasions, as a director, you allowed and / or acquiesced in staff members working whilst on furlough,
- 9. You knew that employees were not permitted to undertake work for their employer under the terms of the furlough scheme
- 10. Your actions at paragraph 8 and 9 above were dishonest;
- 11. On one or more occasions you wrote / stamped codes onto patient records:
 - a. "Big B" meaning Big [redacted] or words to that effect, and / or
 - b. "Big M&M" meaning Big Mardy Mar or words to that effect, and / or
 - c. "MandM" meaning Mardy Mar or words to that effect;
- 12. You allowed or were aware that the visual acuity chart had been inappropriately cut to remove print sizes N5 and N6;
- 13. Between 10 August 2020 and 25 September 2020 you allowed or acquiesced in Registrant C conducting NHS sight tests when not on the NHS England Ophthalmic Performers List;
- 14. On one or more occasions, you signed a GOS1 form(s) declaring you had conducted the sight test when you knew Registrant C had conducted the sight test;
- 15. Your actions at 14 above were dishonest.

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

ALLEGATION (Ms Meera Patel)

The Council alleges that in relation to you, Ms Meera Patel (01-32451), a registered optometrist, whilst you were working at [redacted] Visionplus Limited between around 7 June 2016 and 30 March 2021:

1. *On one or more occasions, you intentionally misdiagnosed patients with:*
 - a. *dry eye conditions; and / or*
 - b. *blocked glands;*
2. *Your actions at 1 were dishonest;*
3. *On one or more occasions, you intentionally recommended eyecare products to patients which were not clinically indicated for:*
 - a. *dry eye conditions; and / or*
 - b. *blocked glands;*
4. *Your actions at 3 were dishonest;*
5. *On one or more occasions, you failed to issue patients with their prescription;*
6. *On one or more occasions, you conducted NHS sight tests when not on the NHS Ophthalmic Performers List;*
7. *In or around December 2020 you failed to adequately assess Patient 1 and/or Patient 2 and/or Patient 3 in that you did not assess binocular function at distance and near;*
8. *On one or more occasions, you failed to follow infection control procedures.*

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

ALLEGATION (Ms Sapna Bariya)

The Council alleges that in relation to you, Ms Sapna Bariya (D-13202), a registered dispensing optician, whilst you were a director and practising dispensing optician at [redacted] Visionplus Limited [redacted] 'the Store' between around 6 January 2009 and 30 November 2021:

1. *On one or more occasions intentionally did the following, and / or encouraged and / or pressurised members of staff to do the following:*
 - a. *provide OCT scans which were inappropriate and / or not clinically indicated,*
 - b. *charge for OCT scans without advising the patient it was optional,*
 - c. *misdiagnose patient(s),*
 - d. *recommend eyecare products which were not clinically indicated for:*
 - i. *dry eye conditions, and / or*
 - ii. *blocked glands,*
 - e. *overcharge for certain eye care products,*
 - f. *offer an "express service" for collecting glasses,*
 - g. *produce receipts which were not itemised and / or did not accurately reflect all the patients' purchases*
 - h. *not accurately record the products / services purchased on Specsavers' Socrates system,*
 - i. *dispense high index lenses when not clinically indicated and / or without offering the patient an informed choice,*
 - j. *not provide patient(s) with a copy of their prescription*
2. *In respect of 1 (e) and (f) you knew you were not permitted to set these prices and / or offer this service,*
3. *In respect of 1 (g) and (h) you intended to disguise from the patient what particular products / services had cost them, and / or to disguise from Specsavers that you were offering an "express service" knew or ought to have known that:*
4. *Your actions at 1 a-h, 2 and 3 were dishonest*
5. *On one or more occasions you intentionally did and / or allowed and / or acquiesced in the insertion of the following false information in patient records:*
 - a. *email address(es) linked to you as the patient's personal email address, and / or*

- b. the optician's address as the patient's home address, and / or
 - c. recommendations for products prior to any examination being undertaken
- 6. On one or more occasions you did and / or allowed and / or requested the creation of:
 - a. false email accounts for the purpose of submitting false patient feedback,
 - b. false patient feedback which was submitted to the MAZE Customer Service Portal
- 7. Your actions at 5 a-c and 6 a-b, were dishonest
- 8. On one or more occasions, as a director, you allowed and / or acquiesced in staff members working whilst on furlough,
- 9. You knew that employees were not permitted to undertake work for their employer under the terms of the furlough scheme
- 10. Your actions at paragraph 8 and 9 above were dishonest;
- 11. You allowed or were aware that the visual acuity chart had been inappropriately cut to remove print sizes N5 and N6
- 12. Between 10 August 2020 and 25 September 2020 you allowed or acquiesced in Registrant C conducting NHS sight tests when not on the NHS Ophthalmic Performers List.

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

ALLEGATION (Ms Maneeka Kothari)

The Council alleges that in relation to you, Ms Maneeka Kothari (01-35047), a registered optometrist, whilst you were working at [redacted] Visionplus Limited as a pre-registration optometrist between around 6 August 2019 and 30 March 2021:

1. *On one or more occasions, you intentionally misdiagnosed patients with:*
 - a. *dry eye conditions; and / or*
 - b. *blocked glands;*
2. *Your actions at 1 were dishonest;*
3. *On one or more occasions, you intentionally recommended eyecare products to patients which were not clinically indicated for:*
 - a. *dry eye conditions; and / or*
 - b. *blocked glands;*
4. *Your actions at 3 were dishonest;*
5. *You wrote out and issued a prescription to Patient 3 on 11 December 2020 when you were not authorised to do so as a pre-registration Optometrist;*
6. *You failed to ensure you wore appropriate PPE and / or follow infection control procedures;*
7. *You failed to raise the following concerns with your tutor in respect of your supervisor:*
 - a. *instructing you to misdiagnose patient; and / or*
 - b. *instructing you to recommend products to patients which were not clinically indicated, and / or*
 - c. *instructing you to use Sodium fluorescein as routine on adult patients.*

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

Committee Members: Ms Louise Fox (Chair)
Ms Vivienne Geary (Lay)
Mr Mark Richards (Lay)
Ms Gaynor Kirk (Optometrist)
Mr Philip Cross (Dispensing Optician)

Legal Adviser: Ms Aaminah Khan

Hearings Officer: Ms Natasha Bance

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.