

**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)**

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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 take 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.

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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 int Registrant C con-ducting 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.*

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