

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

GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL

F(26)16

AND

CATHERINE PRESTON (D-39486)

**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 take commence at 9:30am on **Monday 5 October to Tuesday 6 October 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 **Catherine Preston** is impaired by virtue of the provisions contained in section 13D(2) of the Opticians Act 1989.

Euan Napier
Hearings Manager, General Optical Council

13 August 2026

ALLEGATION

The Council alleges that in relation to you, Catherine Preston (D-39486), a registered Dispensing Optician:

1. On 10 July 2025 at Harrogate Magistrates Court, you were convicted of driving a motor vehicle on a road after consuming so much alcohol that the proportion of it in your blood, namely 189 milligrams of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood, exceeded the prescribed limit, contrary to section 5(1)(a) of the Road Traffic Act 1988 and Schedule 2 to the Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988.

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

Committee Members:

Clive Powell (Chair/Lay)

Ann McKechin (Lay)

Lisa Hill (Lay)

Sue Deal (Dispensing Optician)

Philip Cross (Dispensing Optician)

Legal Adviser:

Jeff Widdup

Hearings Officer:

Arjeta Shabani

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.