

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

GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL

F(25)38

AND

GEORGE KELLY (01-26571)

**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 14 September to Monday 21 September 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 **George Kelly** is impaired by virtue of the provisions contained in section 13D(2) of the Opticians Act 1989.

ALLEGATION

The Council alleges that you, Mr George Kelly (01-26571), a registered optometrist, whilst you were a director of [redacted] Specsavers Limited:

- 1. Between 5 March 2020 and 19 September 2024, you submitted and/or allowed to be submitted invoices for payment for personal expenses which were misrepresented as legitimate business-related expenses, namely:*
 - a. An invoice dated 16 December 2022 in the sum of £3595.20 from [redacted] PLC to Specsavers [redacted] for tickets to the Scotland v Ireland 2023 Thistle Suite rugby match;*
 - b. An invoice dated 20 September 2023 in the sum of £4770 from [redacted] Ltd to Specsavers [redacted] for the Formula 1 British Grand Prix 2024 – Invoice No. 000715D;*
 - c. An invoice dated 5 March 2024 in the sum of £1350 from [redacted] Ltd to Specsavers [redacted] for a Shared Executive Box at Crystal Palace v Manchester City – Invoice No. 000804;*
 - d. An invoice dated 30 April 2024 in the sum of £957.60 from [redacted] Ltd to Specsavers [redacted] Limited for tickets to the 2024 Autumn Nations Series Scotland v Fiji rugby match;*
 - e. An invoice dated 31 May 2024 in the sum of £3300 from [redacted] Ltd to Specsavers [redacted] for the NFL New York Jets v Minnesota Vikings game – Invoice No. 000881;*
- 2. Between 5 March 2020 and 19 September 2024, you submitted and/or allowed to be submitted amended invoices for payment:*
 - a. An invoice dated 26 October 2023 in the sum of £3,585 from [redacted] Ltd to Emma Foster for Dinner, Bed and Breakfast – Invoice 000742;*
 - b. An invoice dated 2 November 2023 in the sum of £2309 from [redacted] Ltd to Emma Foster for Team Building 1 Day Session - Invoice 000745;*
 - c. An invoice dated 2 November 2023 in the sum of £9722 from [redacted] Ltd to Emma Foster for 25 x Double occupancy rooms – Dinner, Bed and Breakfast – Invoice 000747;*

3. *Between 5 March 2020 and 19 September 2024, you submitted claims for personal expenses amounting to £10,759.39 which you misrepresented as legitimate business-related expenses;*
4. *Your actions as set out above at 1a and/or 1b and/or 1c and/or 1d and/or 1e and/or 1f were dishonest in that you knowingly submitted and/or allowed to be submitted invoices for payment which you knew misrepresented personal expenses as legitimate business-related expenses;*
5. *Your actions as set out above at 2a and/or 2b and/or 2c were dishonest in that you knowingly submitted and/or allowed to be submitted amended invoices that you knew to be false;*
6. *Your actions as set out above at 3 were dishonest in that you knowingly misrepresented personal expenses as business-related expenses;*

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

Committee Members:

Andy Brennan (Chair)
Joy Tweed (Lay)
Vivienne Geary (Lay)
Caroline Clark (Optometrist)
Sue Deal (Optometrist)

Legal Adviser:

Tim Akers

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.