

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

GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL

F(20)41

AND

JANE LAI (01-15386)

**DETERMINATION SUMMARY OF A SUBSTANTIVE HEARING
15-17 NOVEMBER 2021
(PRIVATE HEARING)**

Committee Members:	Mr Ian Crookall (Chair) Ms Susan Bradford (Lay) Ms Miriam Karp (Lay) Ms Ann Barrett (OO) Ms Gaynor Kirk (OO)
Clinical adviser:	Dr Desmond Dunleavy
Legal adviser:	Dr Hala Helmi
GOC Presenting Officer:	Ms Zahra Ahmed
Registrant present/represented:	No and not represented
Registrant representative:	N/A
Hearings Officer:	Mr Terence Yates (15-16 Nov) Ms Arjeta Shabani (17 Nov)
Facts found proved:	Found proved
Facts not found proved:	N/A
[REDACTED]	Found proved

Impairment:	Impaired
Sanction:	12 months Suspension with Review
Immediate order:	None

ALLEGATION (As amended)

The Council alleges that you, Miss Jane Lai, a registered Optometrist (01-15386):

- 1) [REDACTED]

And by virtue of the facts set out above, your fitness to practise is impaired by reason of [REDACTED]

Schedule A (not for publication)

[REDACTED]

Preliminary issue

An Amendment to the allegation was agreed by the Committee.

Hearing in Private

The Committee heard an application and agreed for the entire hearing to be held in private.

DETERMINATION

Findings in relation to the facts

The Committee found particulars 1 proved.

Findings in relation to [REDACTED]

The Committee found that the facts found proved amount to [REDACTED]

Findings regarding impairment

The Committee found that the fitness of Ms Jane Lai to practise as an optometrist is impaired.

Sanction

The Committee determined the sanction of Suspension for a period of 12 months.

A review hearing will be held between four and six weeks prior to the expiration of this order.

Immediate order

The Committee has decided not to impose an immediate suspension order for the following reasons.

There is no real risk to patients if no immediate order were imposed.

It is not in the public interest nor in the Registrant's own interest to impose an immediate order.

Revocation of interim order

There was no interim order in place.

Chairman of the Committee: Ian Crookall

Signature  **Date: 17 November 2021**

Registrant: Jane Lai

Signature not present **Date: 17 November 2021**

NOTICE TO REGISTRANT:

- In accordance with Section 13C(3) of the Opticians Act 1989, the GOC may disclose to any person any information relating to your fitness to practise in the public interest.
- In accordance with Section 13B(1) of the Opticians Act 1989, the GOC may require any person, including your learning/workplace supervisor or professional colleague, to supply any information or document relevant to its statutory functions.

FURTHER INFORMATION
Transcript
A full transcript of the hearing will be made available for purchase in due course.
Appeal
Any appeal against an order of the Committee must be lodged with the relevant court within 28 days of the service of this notification. If no appeal is lodged, the order will take effect at the end of that period. The relevant court is shown at section 23G(4)(a)-(c) of the Opticians Act 1989 (as amended).
Professional Standards Authority
<p>This decision will be reported to the Professional Standards Authority (PSA) under the provisions of section 29 of the NHS Reform and Healthcare Professions Act 2002. PSA may refer this case to the High Court of Justice in England and Wales, the Court of Session in Scotland or the High Court of Justice in Northern Ireland as appropriate if they decide that a decision has been insufficient to protect the public and/or should not have been made, and if they consider that referral is desirable for the protection of the public.</p> <p>Where a registrant can appeal against a decision, the Authority has 40 days beginning with the day which is the last day in which you can appeal. Where a registrant cannot appeal against the outcome of a hearing, the Authority's appeal period is 56 days beginning with the day in which notification of the decision was served on you. PSA will notify you promptly of a decision to refer. A letter will be sent by recorded delivery to your registered address (unless PSA has been notified by the GOC of a change of address).</p> <p>Further information about the PSA can be obtained from its website at www.professionalstandards.org.uk or by telephone on 020 7389 8030.</p>
Effect of orders for suspension or erasure
To practise or carry on business as an optometrist or dispensing optician, to take or use a description which implies registration or entitlement to undertake any activity which the law restricts to a registered person, may amount to a criminal offence once an entry in the register has been suspended or erased.
Contact
If you require any further information, please contact the Council's Hearings

Manager at 10 Old Bailey, London, EC4M 7NG or, by telephone, on 020 7580 3898.