

## General Optical Council – Legal Adviser

### Advert

**Remuneration:** The day rate for all hearings is £450 plus VAT. The half day rate is £225 plus VAT.

**Interviews:** between Monday 24 – Friday 28 July 2023

**Application deadline:** Friday 23 June 2023 (17:00)

We are the regulator for the optical professions in the UK. Our purpose is to protect the public by promoting high standards of education, performance and conduct amongst opticians. We currently register around 30,000 optometrists, dispensing opticians, student opticians and optical businesses.

We currently have a number of opportunities for legally qualified individuals from a range of backgrounds to play a key part in the regulation of optical professionals by becoming a Legal Adviser to the committees that decide on complaints against registrants and optical businesses.

We are looking for individuals who can offer their skills and knowledge for several days throughout the year to support our fitness to practise function. We particularly welcome applications from applicants who can reflect the diverse mix of our registrants and patients.

### Role summary

Legal Advisers are to be appointed for the purpose of giving advice to the Fitness to Practise and Registration Appeals Committees on questions of law arising in connection with any matter which the Committee is considering. They will provide legal advice to the Committee and assist the Chair in making sure that the hearing is conducted fairly. The Legal Adviser drafts the decision of the Committee but does not play any role in the Committee decision-making.

Legal Advisers **must have** at least **five years' experience of practice** and must not be a member of the Council. They are to be appointed for the purpose of giving advice to the Fitness to Practise and Registration Appeals Committees on questions of law arising in connection with any matter which the Committee is considering. They will provide timely and appropriate legal advice to ensure a transparent and lawful fitness to practise function, ensuring cases are dealt with efficiently, objectively, and fairly. They will be able to produce high quality draft determinations, ensuring the draft is clear and reflects the background of the case as well as the Committee's findings accurately with any edits actioned in a prompt manner following direction from the Committee.

We are proud of being an employer that values the diversity of its workforce, and we encourage applicants from all backgrounds and sections of the community to apply.

## Further information

The information pack provides details of the role, information on the General Optical Council, details of how to apply and information regarding the application process as well as further detail about the timetable.

We highly recommend you read the application pack, paying particular attention to the competences required, before starting to complete your application form, so you can take this into account when writing your competency statements.

[Legal Adviser Information Pack](#)

[Legal Adviser Application Form](#)

[EDI Monitoring Form](#)

*All interviews and assessments will be done online and will take a total time of approximately two hours. It will comprise of a timed drafting exercise, so please make advance arrangements for being able to type (or dictate using your own software) a draft determination.*

If you would like to have an informal discussion about the role, please contact **Euan Napier** at [enapier@optical.org](mailto:enapier@optical.org) or on **020 7307 3929**.

If you welcome the challenge of helping to take a leading role in supporting optical regulation at this time, we would be delighted to hear from you.

***We strive to be as diverse as the public we protect and welcome applications from everyone, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership and maternity.***