

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

GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL

F(22)32

AND

AMANDEEP SANDHU (01-25360)

**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:

Blended hearing

This means part of the hearing will be held physically in person and part of the hearing will be held remotely via video conference facilities.

The substantive hearing will take place on:

Physically – Thursday 30 March – Friday 31 March 2023 at 10 Old Bailey, London, EC4M 7NG

Remotely – Monday 03 April – Wednesday 05 April 2023 via MS Teams

The Inquiry will be based upon the allegation submitted by the Council (see below) and will determine whether the fitness to practise of **Amandeep Sandhu** is impaired by virtue of the provisions contained in section 13D(2) of the Opticians Act 1989.

Vineeta Desai
Hearings Manager, General Optical Council
08 December 2022

ALLEGATION

The Council alleges that in relation to you, Amandeep Sandhu (01-25360), a registered optometrist:

- 1) On 27 May 2020 at Black Country Magistrates' Court (2923) sitting at Wolverhampton Magistrates Court, you were convicted of the following offences:
 - a. Breach of a non-molestation order, contrary to section 42A(1) and 5 of the Family Law Act 1996;
 - b. Witness intimidation, contrary to section 51(1) and 6 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994;
 - c. Stalking which amounted to harassment, contrary to section 2A(1) and 4 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997;
- 2) On 10 July 2020 at Black Country Magistrates' Court (2923) sitting at Wolverhampton Magistrates Court, you were convicted for breach of a restraining order, contrary to section 5(5) and 6 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, and sentenced to a total of 8 weeks imprisonment;
- 3) On or around 30 March 2020, when applying to be retained on the GOC's register as an Optometrist, you failed to declare you were undergoing criminal court proceedings and/or criminal investigation for the offences set out at 1) above;
- 4) On or around 3 March 2021, when applying to be retained on the GOC's register as an Optometrist, you:
 - a. Failed to declare the conviction set out at 1) above;
 - b. Failed to declare that, on 10 July 2020, you were convicted at Black Country Magistrates' Court for breach of a restraining order, contrary to section 5(5) and 6 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997.
- 5) Your conduct as set at 3) and/or 4a) and/or 4b) above, was dishonest in that you knew you were required to provide details of your convictions and/or criminal matters to the GOC and did not do so;
- 6) You failed to declare the [redacted] set out at Schedule A, to the Council on your application for retention to the register of optometrists dated:
 - a. 30 March 2020; and/or

- b. 3 March 2021.
- 7) Your conduct as set at 6) above, was dishonest in that you knew you were required to provide details of [redacted] to the GOC and did not do so;

And by virtue of the facts set out above, your fitness to practise is impaired by reason of a conviction in respect of allegation 1 and 2, misconduct in respect of allegation 3 and/or 4 and/or 5 and/or 6 and/or 7.

Schedule A (not for publication)

[redacted]

Committee Members: Valerie Paterson (Chair)
Ben Summerskill (Lay)
Mark Richards (Lay)
Alexander Howard (Optometrist)
Sanna Nasrullah (Optometrist)

Legal Adviser: Graeme Dalglish

Hearings Officer: TBC

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.