

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

**IO(18)27**

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**8<sup>th</sup> REVIEW OF AN INTERIM ORDER  
DETERMINATION SUMMARY  
11 February 2022**

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**PRIVATE HEARING**

**Name of Registrant:** Ross Hutcheson

**Registration number:** 01-24464

**Professional status:** Optometrist

**Type and length of interim order:** On 30 November 2018, the Fitness to Practise Committee imposed an interim order of conditions for 18 months. The conditions were replaced with an interim order of suspension on 15 May 2019. The Committee continued the existing interim order of suspension on 30 October 2019, 23 April 2020, 12 August 2020 and 29 January 2021. The IO was extended by the High Court and will now expire on 27 May 2022.

On 23 June 2021, the Committee replaced the current interim order of suspension with an interim order of conditions. On 09 September 2021, the Committee continued the conditions whilst making slight variations.

On 11 February 2022, the Committee continued the interim order of conditions without variation.

The order will be further reviewed within 6 months from today unless all matters are resolved within that time, or earlier should new evidence be made available, or if the registrant requests an early review.

## CONDITIONS

<p>A1.1 Informing others</p>	<p>You must inform the following parties that your registration is subject to conditions. You should do this within two weeks of the date this order takes effect.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Any organisation or person employing or contracting with you to provide paid or unpaid optical services, whether or not in the UK (to include any locum agency).</li> <li>2. Any prospective employer or contractor where you have applied to provide optical services, whether or not in the UK.</li> <li>3. Chair of the Local Optometric Committee for the area where you provide optometric services.</li> <li>4. The NHS body in whose ophthalmic performer or contractor list you are included or are seeking inclusion.</li> </ol>
<p>A1.2 Employment and work</p>	<p>You must inform the GOC if:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. You accept any paid or unpaid employment or contract, whether or not in the UK, to provide optical services.</li> <li>2. You apply for any paid or unpaid employment or contract to provide optical services outside the UK.</li> <li>3. You cease working.</li> </ol> <p>This information must include the contact details of your prospective employer/contractor and (if the role includes providing NHS ophthalmic services) the relevant NHS body.</p>
<p>A1.3 Supervision of Conditions</p>	<p>You must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify a workplace supervisor who would be prepared to monitor your compliance with these conditions.</li> <li>2. Ask the GOC to approve your workplace supervisor within three weeks of the date this order takes effect. If you are not employed, you must ask us to approve your workplace supervisor before you start work.</li> <li>3. Identify another supervisor if the GOC does not agree to your being monitored by the proposed supervisor.</li> <li>4. Place yourself under the close supervision of the supervisor and remain under his/her supervision for the duration of these conditions. For the purposes of these</li> </ol>

	<p>conditions “close supervision” means that the supervisor must be present in the same room as the Registrant and a patient throughout an examination and able to monitor the Registrant’s examination of the patient and his record of the examination</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. In accordance with condition 4 above, you must not undertake work of more than one half day session in each day and limit the number of sessions you undertake in a week in accordance with the advice of your workplace supervisor.</li> <li>6. After each session of work you must discuss with your supervisor the patient cases that you have seen that day with particular regard to a) conducting appropriate tests, examination, treatment and referral; b) adequate and accurate record keeping.</li> <li>7. Every 2 months, or upon request of the GOC, provide a written report from your supervisor to the GOC addressing the areas identified in 6 above. This report must also detail how you have complied with the conditions set out in this whole condition, A1.3.</li> <li>8. Inform the GOC of any proposed change to your supervisor and again place yourself under the supervision of someone who has been agreed by the GOC.</li> </ol>
A1.4 Other proceedings	You must inform the GOC within 14 days if you become aware of any criminal investigation or formal disciplinary investigation against you.
A1.5 Registration requirements	<p>You must continue to comply with all legal and professional requirements of registration with the GOC.          A review hearing will be arranged at the earliest opportunity if you fail to:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Fulfil all CET requirements; or</li> <li>b. Renew your registration annually.</li> </ol>
A2.1	<p>You must:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Place yourself, and remain, under the medical supervision of a GP Practice.</li> <li>2. Attend appointments as arranged.</li> <li>3. Follow their advice.</li> <li>4. Follow their recommended treatment.</li> <li>5. Inform your GP and any relevant health care</li> </ol>

	<p>professional that your GOC registration is subject to conditions and provide him/her with a copy of these conditions.</p> <p>6. Inform the GOC of the contact details of your GP and any relevant health care professional within 7 days of these conditions taking effect.</p> <p>7. Arrange for the GOC to receive reports from your GP and any other relevant health care professional every 6 months commencing 23 June 2021, or when we ask for them.</p> <p>8. Keep your professional commitments under review and limit your practice in accordance with your GP and any relevant health care professional's advice, including ceasing all practice if so advised.</p>
<p>A4.1 Restriction on practice</p>	<p>You must: Not undertake any locum work.</p>
<p>A4.5 Personal development plan</p>	<p>1. You must work with your workplace supervisor to formulate a personal development plan, which should address the areas identified in A1.3, condition 6 above.</p> <p>2. Submit a copy of your personal development plan to the GOC on or before 31 October 2021.</p>