

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

GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL

F(21)08

AND

FARWAH SHEIKH (D-9630)

**DETERMINATION SUMMARY OF A SUBSTANTIVE HEARING
16-18 AUGUST 2021
(PRIVATE HEARING)**

Committee Members:	Ms Julia Wortley (Chair/Lay) Mr Ubaidul Hoque (Lay) Ms Sarah Hamilton (Lay) Ms Clare Hayes (Dispensing Optician) Ms Catherine Kimpton (Dispensing Optician)
Clinical adviser:	Dr Desmond Dunleavy
Legal adviser:	Mr David Mason
GOC Presenting Officer:	Ms Zahra Ahmed
Registrant present/represented:	Yes and represented
Registrant representative:	Mr John Graham
Hearings Officer:	Mr Terence Yates
Facts found proved:	1a, b, c, d, e, f and g, 2a, b and 4
Facts not found proved:	3 and 5
Misconduct:	Found

Impairment:	Not impaired (9 months warning)
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ALLEGATION (as amended)

The Council alleges that you, Ms Farwah Sheikh, a registered dispensing optician, while employed by the [REDACTED]:

1. Took items from colleagues on the following occasions:
 - a. On or around 05 July 2018 you took item(s) from the bag of your colleague Miss D in the staff room;
 - b. On or around 06 July 2018 you took money from the bag of your colleague Miss E in the staff room;
 - c. On or around 07 July 2018 you took item(s) from the bag of your colleague Miss D in the staff room;
 - d. On or around 18 July you took money from the bag of your colleague Miss D in the staff room;
 - e. On or around 19 July 2018 you took money from the bag of your colleague Miss D in the staff room;
 - f. On or around 23 July 2018 you took money from the bag of your colleague Miss D in the staff room;
 - g. On a date after 19 July 2018, you took the following items from your employer without paying or attempting to pay for them:
 - i. One glasses spray; and
 - ii. One glasses case.
2. Your actions as set out at allegation 1(a-g) above were:
 - a. Inappropriate; and/or
 - b. Dishonest, in that you took item(s) and/or moneys that belonged to others knowing that you did so without their permission.
3. [REDACTED]

4. *Between 2008 and 2018, you failed to inform the Council of [REDACTED] as set out in Schedule A; and/or*
5. *Your actions as set out at 4 above were dishonest in that you knew you were required to declare [REDACTED] to the Council; and/or*

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

- a. misconduct and/or*
- b. [REDACTED]*

Schedule A:

[REDACTED]

DETERMINATION

Admissions in relation to the particulars of the allegation

The Registrant admitted particulars 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 1e, 1f, 1g (as amended), 2a and 4 of the Allegation.

Findings in relation to the facts

The Committee found particulars 1a, b, c, d, e, f and g, 2a, b and 4 proved.

The Committee found particulars 3 and 5 not proved.

Findings in relation to misconduct

The Committee found that the admitted and found proved facts amount to misconduct.

Findings regarding impairment

The Committee found that the fitness of Farwah Sheikh to practise as a dispensing optician is not impaired.

Warning

The committee determined to make a warning for the length of 9 months. The warning is as follows:

The Registrant is warned that she must not breach the Standards for Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians set out at paragraphs 16.1 and 17.1 and that her future conduct must not be such as to bring the profession in to disrepute.

Chairman of the Committee: Julia Wortley

Signature **Date: 18 August 2021**

Registrant: Farwah Sheikh

Signature **Date: 18 August 2021**

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>
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.