

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

GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL

F(23)44 and F(23)45

AND

MS HADIQA ALI (SO-15035)

MR AZHAR MAHMOOD (SO-16015)

**NOTICE OF INQUIRY
JOINT 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.

The substantive hearing will commence at 9:30am on **Monday 17 June 2024** by way of video conference or telephone conference facilities.

The Inquiry will be based upon the allegations submitted by the Council (see below) and will determine whether the fitness to undertake training of the following registrants is impaired by virtue of the provisions contained in section 13D(2) of the Opticians Act 1989.

- Ms Hadiqa Ali (SO-15035)
- Mr Azhar Mahmood (SO-16015)

The Committee's powers of disposal are set out in sections 13F to 13I.

Euan Manager
Hearings Manager, General Optical Council

5 June 2024

ALLEGATIONS - MS HADIQA ALI (SO-15035)

The Council alleges that you, Hadiqa Ali (SO-15035), a registered student optometrist, whilst employed at [REDACTED] Specsavers Limited:

- 1) On or around 2 February 2023 you:
 - a) used your colleague's [REDACTED] code and accessed his profile;
 - b) completed a contact lens trial in the absence of a patient on behalf of your colleague for him to use this file on his College of Optometrists Stage 1 assessment.
- 2) Your actions as set out in 1 were dishonest in that you fabricated a clinical record to be used as part of your colleague's College of Optometrists Stage 1 assessment.

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

ALLEGATIONS - MR AZHAR MAHMOOD (SO-16015)

The Council alleges that you, Azhar Mahmood (SO-16015), a registered Student Optometrist, whilst employed at [REDACTED] Specsavers Ltd:

- 1) On or around 2 February 2023 you:
 - a. Asked your colleague, a registered student optometrist via text message to access your profile and complete a contact lens trial to use for your College of Optometrists Stage 1 assessment;
 - b. You allowed your [REDACTED] user code to be used and/or were aware that your [REDACTED] user code was used by your colleague to complete a contact lens trial on a false clinical record.
- 2) Your actions as set out in 1 were dishonest in that you were planning to present a clinical record as part of your College of Optometrist Stage 1 assessment knowing that it had been fabricated and you were not working on that day;

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

Committee Members:

Pamela Ormerod (Chair / Lay)

Ben Summerskill (Lay)

Sarah Hamilton (Lay)

Gemma O'Rourke (Optometrist)

Sanna Nasrullah (Optometrist)

Legal Adviser:

Kelly Thomas

Hearings Officer:

Latanya Gordon

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.