

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

GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL

F(24)10

AND

GARETH HARRIS (D-11904)

**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:

Remotely

The substantive hearing will commence at 9:30am on **1st – 2nd July 2024** by way of video conference or telephone conference facilities.

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

Euan Napier
Hearings Manager, General Optical Council

22 April 2024

ALLEGATION

The Council alleges that you, Mr Gareth Harris (D-11904), a registered dispensing optician:

1. On 8 November 2022 you were convicted at Newport Magistrates Court for an offence in that on 14 August 2022 you drove a motor vehicle after consuming a controlled drug that the proportion of it in your blood, namely 406 micrograms of drug per litre exceeded the specified limit contrary to section 5A (1) (a) and (2) of the Road Traffic Act 1988 and Schedule 2 to the Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988.

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

Committee Members: Mr Ian Crookall (Chair)
Ms Jackie Alexander (Lay)
Ms Alice Robertson-Rickard (Lay)
Mr Philip Cross (Dispensing Optician)
Ms Leigh Nelson (Dispensing Optician)

Legal Adviser: Ms Jennifer Ferrario
Hearings Officer: Ms Arjeta Shabani
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.