

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

**GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL**

**F(23)24 and F(23)25**

**AND**

**ROBERT FYFE - (01-31612)**

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**NOTICE OF INQUIRY  
SUBSTANTIVE HEARING**

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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 **Monday 4 December to Tuesday 19 December** 2023 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 **Robert Fyfe** is impaired by virtue of the provisions contained in section 13D(2) of the Opticians Act 1989.

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Euan Napier  
Hearings Manager, General Optical Council

**20 October 2023**

## ALLEGATION

2022-085

The Council alleges that you, Robert Fyfe, a registered optometrist, whilst working at [redacted]:

- 1) On or around 25 August 2020 you conducted a sight test on Patient A and you:
  - a. Failed to conduct an adequate examination of the eyes; and/or
  - b. Failed to make any adequate record of the assessment of Patient A's general ocular status; and/or
  - c. Failed to detect and/or record Patient A's eye conditions of:
    - i. Ptosis and/or
    - ii. Dermatochalasis and/or
    - iii. Exotropia
  - d. Failed to provide advice and/or appropriately manage the conditions set out in 1c and/or
  - e. Failed to send a vision report to [redacted]
  
- 2) On or around 9 July 2021 you conducted a sight test on Patient A and you:
  - a. Failed to conduct an adequate examination of the eyes; and/or
  - b. Failed to make any adequate record of the assessment of Patient A's general ocular status; and/or
  - c. Failed to detect and/or record Patient A's eye conditions of:
    - i. Ptosis and/or
    - ii. Dermatochalasis and/or
    - iii. Exotropia
  - d. Failed to provide advice and/or appropriately manage the conditions set out in 2c and/or
  - e. Failed to send a vision report to Patient A's GP
  
- 3) On or around 9 July 2021 you failed to advise and/or record advice that Patient A's monocular vision for driving did not meet the minimum standards.
  
- 4) On or around 10 August 2021 you conducted a sight test on Patient A and you:
  - a. Failed to conduct an adequate examination of the eyes; and/or
  - b. Failed to make any adequate record of the assessment of Patient A's general ocular status; and/or
  - c. Failed to detect and/or record Patient A's eye conditions of:
    - i. Ptosis and/or
    - ii. Dermatochalasis and/or
    - iii. Exotropia
  - d. Failed to provide advice and/or appropriately manage the conditions set out in 4c and/or
  - e. Failed to detect Patient A had glaucoma despite the condition being clinically indicated and/or

- f. *Failed to refer Patient A to a hospital eye service for further investigation of glaucoma, despite the condition being clinically indicated*
- 5) *On or around 10 August 2021 you failed to carry out a sufficient pre-cataract surgery assessment on Patient A.*
- 6) *On or around 10 August 2021 you failed to record an adequate clinical record for Patient A's pre-cataract surgery assessment, including:*
- a. *Full history*
  - b. *General health*
  - c. *Medications*
  - d. *Slit lamp examination of cornea and/or anterior chamber*
  - e. *Type and density of cataract*
  - f. *Consideration of pupil dilation (pharmacologically dilate)*
  - g. *Biometry and keratometry (topography) results*
- 7) *On or around 14 November 2021, on a referral letter signed by you, you misdiagnosed Patient A with esotropia, despite exotropia being clinically indicated*

**2022-088**

*The Council alleges that you, Robert Fyfe, a registered optometrist whilst working as an optometrist at [redacted] on or around 8 March 2022:*

- 1) *You failed to obtain and/or record details about Patient B's symptoms in that you did not document details regarding Patient B's:*
- a. *History and/or*
  - b. *Character of the symptoms and/or*
  - c. *Duration of the symptoms and/or*
  - d. *Onset of the symptoms*
- 2) *You failed to conduct and/or record an adequate sight test on Patient B in that you:*
- a. *Failed to undertake or record Patient B's levels of acuity, and/or*
  - b. *Failed to check for or record relative afferent pupil defects, and/or*
  - c. *Failed to conduct or record a pinhole examination, and/or*
  - d. *Failed to conduct or record fundus examination, and/or*
  - e. *Failed to detect signs of Patient B's swollen right optic nerve*
- 3) *You failed to urgently refer Patient B to a hospital eye service for further investigation of their symptoms despite Patient B's swollen right optic nerve being clinically indicated*

4) *You failed to provide effective patient care and treatment to Patient B in that you:*

*a. You misdiagnosed Patient B with conditions:*

*i. Pigment epithelial detachment and/or*

*ii. Macular oedema and/or*

*iii. Retinal detachment*

b. Following your misdiagnosis, you advised Patient B to wait 3 days for treatment for retinal detachment and/or pigment epithelial detachment despite these conditions indicating an urgent referral

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

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**Committee Members:** James Kellock (Lay)  
Nigel Pilkington (Lay)  
Ben Summerskill (Lay)  
Kalpana Theophilus (Optometrist)  
David Cartwright (Optometrist)

**Legal Adviser:** Aaminah Khan

**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](mailto:hearings@optical.org).