

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

GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL

F(21)27

AND

ZBIGNIEW ASHLEIGH (01-20086)

**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 take commence at 9:30am on **Tuesday 30 and Wednesday 31 August 2022** 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 **Zbigniew Ashleigh** is impaired by virtue of the provisions contained in section 13D(2) of the Opticians Act 1989.

Vineeta Desai
Hearings Manager, General Optical Council

31 May 2022

ALLEGATION

That being a registered optometrist, the fitness to practise of Mr Zbigniew Ashleigh is impaired by reason of misconduct, in that:

1. On 25th November 2020 sent an unsolicited email to Ms A, using racist and offensive language, which stated “where were you born? I’d like to know if you have a UK passport, a dual passport or none.”;
2. Your conduct as set out above at 1 was discriminatory in that your comment at 1 were in response to an interview given by Ms A which related to economic policy.

AND that by reason of the matters alleged above your fitness to practise is impaired by reason of misconduct.

Committee Members: TBC (Lay)
TBC (Lay)
TBC (Lay)
TBC (Optometrist)
TBC (Optometrist)

Legal Adviser: TBC

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.