

**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 **Monday 06 March to Friday 10 March 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 **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

09 September 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 25 November you sent an unsolicited e-mail which contained the following:
“Where were you born? I’d like to know if you have a UK passport, a dual passport or none”.
2. The language used as set out in charge 1 above was inappropriate as:
 - (i) it was capable of being understood as discriminatory and/or racist; and/or
 - (ii) it was discriminatory and/or racist; and/or
 - (iii) it was intended to be discriminatory and/or racist.

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

Committee Members: Eileen Carr (Chair)
Carolyn Tetlow (Lay)
David Abbott (Lay)
Christian Dutton (Optometrist)
Ann Barrett (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.