

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

GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL

F(23)28

AND

KIRSTY WATSON (01-31393)

**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 29 January – Friday 02 February 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 **Kirsty Watson** is impaired by virtue of the provisions contained in section 13D(2) of the Opticians Act 1989.

Louise Hall
Hearings Manager, General Optical Council
10 January 2024

ALLEGATION

The Council alleges that you, Kirsty Watson (01-31393), a registered Optometrist:

1. On or around 31 October 2019 you failed to conduct an adequate eye examination on Patient A in that you:
 - a. Did not perform a dilated eye examination on Patient A; and/or
 - b. Failed to refer Patient A on an urgent basis for further investigation; and/or
 - c. Failed to detect signs of choroidal melanoma; and/or
 - d. Failed to identify changes to Patient A's choroidal naevus that required further investigation; and/or
 - e. Failed to appropriately refer Patient A for a changed lesion and/or suspicious retinal and/or choroidal lesion and/or treatment of a choroidal melanoma
2. On or around 31 October 2019 you failed to maintain an adequate standard of record keeping in that you:
 - a. Did not record why the pupils were not dilated;
3. On or around 19 November 2020 you failed to conduct an adequate eye examination on Patient A in that you:
 - a. Failed to refer Patient A on an urgent basis for further investigation; and/or
 - b. Failed to effectively and/or appropriately communicate with Patient A the degree of urgency in the referral; and/or
 - c. Failed to urgently refer Patient A to the hospital eye service (HES);

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

Committee Members:

Sara Fenoughty (Chair)
Mark McLaren (Lay)
John Vaughan (Lay)
Gemma O'Rourke (Optometrist)
Ewen MacMillan (Optometrist)

Legal Adviser:

Alecsandra Manning-Rees

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.