

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

**GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL**

**F(24)14 & 15**

**AND**

**ADEEL IQBAL (SO-15327)**

---

**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:

**Blended hearing**

This means part of the hearing will be held physically in person and part of the hearing will be held remotely via video conference facilities.

The substantive hearing will take place on:

Physically – **Monday 28 October to Friday 1 November 2024** at the **General Optical Council, 10 Old Bailey, London, EC4M 7NG**

Remotely via MS Teams – **Monday 4 November to Friday 15 November 2024.**

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

---

Euan Napier  
Operations Manager, Hearings - General Optical Council

**9 August 2024**

## ALLEGATION

### Amended Allegation 2022-354 (Case 1)

The Council alleges that you, Mr Adeel Iqbal (SO-15327), a registered student optometrist:

1. On or around 13 October 2022, you failed to adhere to GDPR and/or
2. Breached data protection requirements in that you obtained Ms B's mobile number by accessing Patient A's records without her consent and texting her;
3. Between October 2022 – November 2022 outside of work hours, you failed to maintain appropriate boundaries with Ms B in that you:
  - a. Sent Ms B inappropriate text messages to her personal social media platforms unrelated to optical services and unrelated to Patient A's clinical care; and/or
  - b. On multiple occasions contacted Ms B via "WhatsApp" without her consent;
    - i. You sent messages relating to financial trades;
    - ii. You sent a message saying "Hi I just realised I've added the wrong number. I must've entered one of the digits wrong. I am incredibly sorry for disturbing you. Wont (sic) happen again x" or words to that effect;
    - iii. You asked numerous questions about her personal life
  - c. On multiple occasions contacted Ms B via a social media platform "Instagram" without her consent and sent her multiple videos and images of footages from Syria of men wearing army uniforms holding weapons and/or
  - d. On multiple occasions contacted Ms B via a social media platform "Snapchat" without her consent and sent her multiple inappropriate videos
4. Your conduct at 1) and/or 2) and/or 3 above was:
  - a. Unprofessional or otherwise inappropriate in that you:
    - i. failed to maintain appropriate boundaries; and/or
    - ii. knew or ought to have known that such conduct was not suitable in a student optician-client relationship.

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

## **Amended Allegations 2023-006 (Case 2)**

The Council alleges that you, Mr Adeel Iqbal (SO-15327), a registered student optometrist whilst working at Ryde Specsavers that :

1. Around December 2022 to April 2023, you acted inappropriately towards Ms 1, in that you:
  - a. Failed to maintain appropriate boundaries in that you touched and/or rubbed Ms 1's shoulder making her feel uncomfortable.
2. On or around September 2022, you acted inappropriately towards Ms 2, in that you whispered in Ms 2's ear, 'Fuck the monarchy' or words to that affect making her feel uncomfortable.
3. On an unknown date around December 2022 to April 2023 you approached Ms 2 and had an inappropriate conversation about a patient saying words to the effect:
  - a. *'It's getting heated in there'*
  - b. In response to 3.a) above, Ms 2 replied *'why' and you responded, 'she's horny'*
  - c. Your comments caused Ms 2 to feel uncomfortable
4. On 9 January 2023, you acted inappropriately towards Mr 4, in that you approached Mr 4 from behind and poked him by the waist;
5. Your conduct at 1), 2), 3) and/or 4) above was:
  - a. inappropriate in that you:
    - i. failed to maintain appropriate boundaries; and/or
    - ii. knew or ought to have known that such conduct was not appropriate
    - iii. your colleagues were made to feel uncomfortable by your actions

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

---

**Committee Members:**

Sara Fenoughty (Chair)

Miriam Karp (Lay)

Alice Robertson-Rickard (Lay)

Caroline Clark (Optometrist)

Gemma O'Rourke (Optometrist)

**Legal Adviser:**

Kelly Thomas

**Hearings Officer:**

Arjeta Shabhani

**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).