

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

**GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL**

**F(23)03 & 04**

**AND**

**NIALL MCVERRY (01-25219)**

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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:

**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 – at **09:30am** on **Monday 22 January – Friday 26 January 2024** at the GOC Offices: **10 Old Bailey, London EC4M 7NG**.

Remotely – at **09:30am** on **Monday 29 January 2024 – Friday 02 February 2024** via **MS Teams**.

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

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Louise Hall  
Operations Manager (Hearings), General Optical Council  
29 November 2023

## ALLEGATION

2020/223

The Council alleges that you, Mr Niall McVerry (01-25219), a registered Optometrist:

1. You [redacted], the details of which are set out in Schedule A.

And by virtue of the fact set out above, your fitness to practise is impaired by reason of your [redacted].

### Schedule A

[redacted]

2021/152

The Council alleges that you, Mr Niall McVerry (01-25219), a registered Optometrist:

1. On 23 July 2019, at Armagh Magistrates Court, you were convicted of:
  - a. Without reasonable excuse failed to co-operate with a preliminary test, namely, breath test in pursuance of a requirement under Article 17 of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1995
2. On 11 March 2020, while completing your retention application for your 2019/2020 renewal cycle online via the GOC's website you;
  - a. Failed to declare the conviction
3. Your conduct was dishonest and/or misleading in that:
  - a. In respect of Allegation 2, you knew were required to provide details of your convictions to the GOC and did not do so;

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

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<b>Committee Members:</b>	Ian Crookall (Lay) Mark Richards (Lay) Miriam Karp (Lay) Danielle Ellis (Optometrist) Amit Jinabhai (Optometrist)
<b>Clinical Adviser:</b>	Dr Desmond Dunleavy
<b>Legal Adviser:</b>	Aaminah Khan
<b>Hearings Officer:</b>	TBC
<b>Transcribers:</b>	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).