

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

GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL

F(23)22

AND

PHILIP SOWDEN (01-14181)

**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 23 October – Tuesday 24 October 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 **Philip Sowden** is impaired by virtue of the provisions contained in section 13D(2) of the Opticians Act 1989.

Vineeta Desai
Hearings Manager, General Optical Council

06 September 2023

ALLEGATION

The Council alleges that in relation to you, Mr Philip John Sowden (01-14181), a registered optometrist:

1) On 15 May 2019, you conducted an eye examination on Patient A, and you;

a) Failed to conduct an appropriate assessment of Patient A's eyes in that you:

i) Failed to detect signs and/or symptoms of glaucoma;

b) Failed to refer Patient A to the hospital eye service for further investigation and/or treatment of glaucoma;

c) Failed to maintain adequate records in connection with your eye examination with Patient A, in that you did not fully record details of the:

i) External eye examinations conducted;

ii) Information on the optic disc appearance;

iii) Method used to obtain measurements for intra-ocular pressures;

iv) Near visual acuities in each eye;

v) Tonometry instrument used and/or time of the test;

vi) Field instrument used;

vii) Optic nerve neural retinal rim appearance;

viii) Anterior chamber angle assessment;

ix) Symptoms of a cloud that Patient A was presenting, including the duration and/or commencement of the symptom and/or exacerbating factors;

x) Name of the registrant conducting the examination;

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

Committee Members: Ian Crookall (Chair)
Asmita Naik (Lay)
Vivienne Geary (Lay)
Caroline Clark (Optometrist)
Philippa Shaw (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.