

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

GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL

F(24)46

AND

MINAL THAKER (01-22544)

**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 commence at 9:30am on **Monday 28 April – Friday 2 May 2025** 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 **Minal Thaker** is impaired by virtue of the provisions contained in section 13D(2) of the Opticians Act 1989.

Vineeta Desai
Hearings Manager, General Optical Council

5 March 2025

ALLEGATION

The Council alleges that in relation to you, Minal Thaker (01-22544), a registered Optometrist, whilst you were employed at [redacted] Visionplus Limited:

- 1) Between 2019 and 2023, you misrepresented personal expenses amounting to £529.92, by claiming they were legitimate business-related expenses; and/or
- 2) Between 2019 and 2023, you misrepresented disputed expenses amounting to £1192.86, by claiming they were legitimate business-related expenses; and/or
- 3) Between 2019 and 2023, you claimed reimbursement for personal expenses and disputed expenses, by claiming they were legitimate business-related expenses; and/or
- 4) Your actions as set out at 1) and/or 2) and/or 3) above are:
 - a. Dishonest in that you knowingly represented personal expenses as business related expenses; and/or
 - b. Dishonest and/or unprofessional in that in your role as Director of the business, namely [redacted] Visionplus Limited, you knowingly exposed the business to potential additional tax liabilities by representing personal expenses as business-related expenses.

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

Committee Members:

Goan Hart (Chair)
Carolyn Tetlow (Lay)
Mark McLaren (Lay)
Kamlesh Gohil (Optometrist)
Denise Connor (Optometrist)

Legal Adviser:

Aaminah Khan

Hearings Officer:

Natasha Bance

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.