

**PRACTISE COMMITTEE
OF THE GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL**

GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL

F(24)11

AND

ELIZABETH WILLIAMS (01-36542)

**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 16 September – Wednesday 25 September 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 **Elizabeth Williams** 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

19 July 2024

ALLEGATION

The Council alleges that you, Mrs Elizabeth Williams (01-36542), a registered Optometrist:

Patient 2

- 1) On or around 20 July 2022 you examined Patient 2, and you:
 - a) Failed to perform a dilated examination; and/or
 - b) In the alternative to 1) a) above failed to record a dilated examination; and/or
 - c) Failed to obtain adequate information in relation to Patient 2's diabetes including:
 - i. Whether Patient 2 attended a diabetic screening programme; and/or
 - ii. When Patient 2 had last been examined at a diabetic screening programme; and/or
 - iii. The outcome of any examination carried out as part of a diabetic screening programme.
 - d) In the alternative to 1) c) i., ii, and iii. above you failed to record:
 - i. Whether Patient 2 attended a diabetic screening programme; and/or
 - ii. When Patient 2 had last been examined at a diabetic screening programme; and/or
 - iii. The outcome of any examination carried out as part of a diabetic screening programme.
 - e) Failed to perform an anterior examination of Patient 2's eyes; and/or
 - f) In the alternative to 1) e) above you failed to record an anterior examination of Patient 2's eyes.
- 2) In relation to the referral of Patient 2 for cataract surgery made on or around 3 September 2022, you failed to make the referral within a reasonable timeframe.

Patient 3

- 3) On or around 4 August 2022 you examined Patient 3, and you:
 - a) Failed to perform a visual fields test; and/or
 - b) In the alternative to 3) a) above failed to record a visual fields test; and/or

- c) Failed to provide safety-netting advice; and/or
 - d) In the alternative to 3) c) above failed to record your safety-netting advice.
- 4) On or around 14 September 2022 you failed to record adequate information in your letter of referral in that you did not include information relating to:
- a) Macula pathology; and/or
 - b) Intraocular pressures; and/or
 - c) Cup:disc ratios.
- 5) In relation to the referral of Patient 3 for cataract surgery made on or around 14 September 2022, you failed to make the referral within a reasonable timeframe.

Patient 4

- 6) On or around 22 August 2022 you examined Patient 4, and you:
- a) Failed to record the cause of Patient 4's amblyopic left eye; and/or
 - b) Failed to perform record a visual fields test; and/or
 - c) In the alternative to 6) b) above you failed to record the visual fields test.
- 7) You failed to record adequate information in your letter of referral in that you did not include information relating to Patient 4's cup: disc ratio.

Patient 5

- 8) On or around 17 November 2022 you examined Patient 5, and you:
- a) Failed to test Patient 5's intraocular pressures; and/or
 - b) In the alternative to 8) a) above, you failed to record Patient 5's intraocular pressures; and/or
 - c) Failed to obtain clinical information including:
 - i. Patient 5's general health: and/or
 - ii. Medications Patient 5 was taking; and/or
 - iii. A detailed history relating Patient 5's visual loss; and/or
 - iv. Patient 5's visual acuity; and/or
 - d) In the alternative to 8 c i, ii, iii, iv. above you failed to make an adequate record in that you did not record:

- i. Patient 5's general health: and/or
- ii. Medications Patient 5 was taking; and/or
- iii. A detailed history relating Patient 5's visual loss; and/or
- iv. Patient 5's visual acuity; and/or

9) On or around 17 November 2022 failed to urgently refer Patient 5.

Patient 6

10) On or around 10 November 2022 failed to refer Patient 6.

Patient 7

11) On or around 15 July 2022 you examined Patient 7, and you:

- a) Failed to examine the anterior vitreous for pigment cells; and/or
- b) In the alternative to 11) a) above failed to record any examination of the anterior vitreous for pigment cells; and/or
- c) Failed to perform a dilated examination; and/or
- d) In the alternative to 11) c) above failed to record a dilated examination; and/or
- e) Failed to provide safety-netting advice; and/or
- f) In the alternative to 11) e) above failed to record safety netting advice.

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

Committee Members: Ian Crookall (Chair)
Paul Curtis (Lay)
Nigel Pilkington (Lay)
Kalpana Theophilus (Optometrist)
Ewen MacMillan (Optometrist)

Legal Adviser: Aaminah Khan

Hearings Officer: Latanya Gordon

Transcribers: Marten Walsh Cherer Ltd

If you require further information relating to this hearing, please contact the Council's Hearings Manager at hearings@optical.org.