

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

GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL

F(23)38

AND

KARTIK BHARADIA (01-26443)

**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 20 January – Friday 31 January 2025 (and Monday 17 February – Tuesday 18 February 2025 if needed)** 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 **Kartik Bharadia** is impaired by virtue of the provisions contained in section 13D(2) of the Opticians Act 1989.

Vineeta Desai
Hearings Manager, General Optical Council

13 September 2024

ALLEGATION

The Council alleges that you, Mr Kartik Bharadia (01-26443), a registered optometrist:

- 1) *Between 25 May 2020 and 7 June 2020, you failed to act on instruction from a statutory authority requiring measures to be implemented to safeguard the welfare of patients and staff in that you permitted and/or facilitated the carrying out of non-urgent and/or non-essential in-person patient consultations with some or all of the patients listed in Schedule A, contrary to Government and associated guidance that was in force at that time, following the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions (England) Regulations 2020*
- 2) *Between around 25 May 2020 and 7 June 2020, in relation to some or all patients in Schedule B, you failed to adequately manage these patients, in that you:*
 - a. *Failed to perform and/or record the findings of any cover test of any other binocular vision test;*
- 3) *Between around 25 May 2020 and 7 June 2020, in relation to some or all patients in Schedule C, you failed to adequately manage these patients, in that you:*
 - a. *Failed to perform and/or record the findings of any cover test or any other binocular vision test*
 - b. *Failed to perform and/or record pupil reflex testing;*
- 4) *On or around 30 May 2020, you attended to Patient 107 and you failed to adequately manage this patient in that you:*
 - a. *Failed to perform a visual fields test, despite this being clinically indicated; and/or*
 - b. *Failed to make a referral to Patient 107's General Practitioner ("GP") for further investigation;*
- 5) *On or around 3 June 2020, you attended to Patient 84, and you:*
 - a. *Failed to complete a full examination in that you failed to perform a dilated examination of Patient 84's eyes;*
- 6) *Between around 25 May 2020 and 7 June 2020, you failed to maintain adequate patient records, in that you:*
 - a. *Failed to record adequately or at all your internal examination findings for some or all of the patients in Schedule D.*

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

Schedule B

Patient 18
Patient 40
Patient 60
Patient 76
Patient 107

Schedule C

Patient 27
Patient 33

Schedule D

Patient 1
Patient 3
Patient 10
Patient 13
Patient 19
Patient 20
Patient 21
Patient 22
Patient 23
Patient 24
Patient 28
Patient 30
Patient 32
Patient 33
Patient 35
Patient 38
Patient 39
Patient 45
Patient 48
Patient 49
Patient 52
Patient 53
Patient 56
Patient 60
Patient 61
Patient 62
Patient 65
Patient 72
Patient 75
Patient 79
Patient 92
Patient 96
Patient 98

Committee Members: Hermione McEwen (Chair)
John Vaughan (Lay)
Diane Roskilly (Lay)
Amit Jinabhai (Optometrist)
Sanna Nasrullah (Optometrist)

Legal Adviser: Megan Ashworth

Hearings Officer: Latanya Gordon

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.