

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

**GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL**

**F(23)02**

**AND**

**MARIAM HALING (SO-14896)**

**PRIVATE**

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**DETERMINATION OF A SUBSTANTIVE REVIEW SUMMARY  
25 OCTOBER 2024**

<b>Committee Members:</b>	Anne Johnstone (Chair/Lay) Ian Hanson (Lay) Victoria Smith (Lay) Alexander Howard (Optometrist) Sarvat Fida (Optometrist)
<b>Clinical adviser:</b>	Dr Jenny Bearn
<b>Legal adviser:</b>	Kelly Thomas
<b>GOC Presenting Officer:</b>	Vithyah Chelvam
<b>Registrant:</b>	Present and unrepresented
<b>Hearings Officer:</b>	Terence Yates
<b>Outcome:</b>	Not currently impaired

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## DETERMINATION

### ALLEGATION

The Council alleges that you, Miss Mariam Haling (SO-14896), a registered Student Optometrist:

1. [Redacted]
2. And by virtue of the facts set out above, your fitness to undertake training is impaired by reason of [Redacted]

### Schedule A

[Redacted]

### Background

1. Following a GOC investigation, the substantive hearing took place between the dates 25 July-9 August 2023, and 23-24 October 2023.
2. The Registrant's registration was made subject to conditions for 12 months. The order is due to expire on 21 November 2024.

### Application for the hearing to be in private

3. Ms Chelvam, on behalf of the Council, invited the Committee to hear the entire review hearing in private due to the subject of the Registrant's [redacted]. The Registrant did not oppose this.

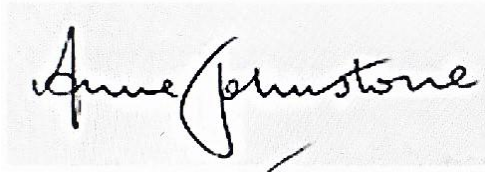
The Legal Adviser referred to *Rule 25(3) of the General Optical Council (Fitness to Practise) Rules Order of Council 2013 (the Rules)* and indicated that the hearing 'must be a private hearing where the Fitness to Practise Committee is considering the [redacted] of the registrant.'

4. The Committee heard and accepted legal advice in relation to *Rule 25(3)* and noted that the Allegation relates solely to the Registrant's health. It was satisfied that as this hearing was solely in relation to the Registrant's [redacted], it was required to sit in private in accordance with the *Rules*.

### Findings on impairment

5. The Committee found that the fitness of Mariam Haling to undertake training as an optometrist is not impaired.

**Chairman of the Committee: Anne Johnstone**

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light grey background. The signature is written in a cursive style and reads "Anne Johnstone".

**Signature**

**Date: 25 October 2024**

**Registrant: Mariam Haling**

**Signature** present and received via email

**Date: 25 October 2024**

<b>FURTHER INFORMATION</b>
<b>Transcript</b>
A full transcript of the hearing will be made available for purchase in due course.
<b>Appeal</b>
Any appeal against an order of the Committee must be lodged with the relevant court within 28 days of the service of this notification. If no appeal is lodged, the order will take effect at the end of that period. The relevant court is shown at section 23G(4)(a)-(c) of the Opticians Act 1989 (as amended).
<b>Professional Standards Authority</b>
<p>This decision will be reported to the Professional Standards Authority (PSA) under the provisions of section 29 of the NHS Reform and Healthcare Professions Act 2002. PSA may refer this case to the High Court of Justice in England and Wales, the Court of Session in Scotland or the High Court of Justice in Northern Ireland as appropriate if they decide that a decision has been insufficient to protect the public and/or should not have been made, and if they consider that referral is desirable for the protection of the public.</p> <p>Where a registrant can appeal against a decision, the Authority has 40 days beginning with the day which is the last day in which you can appeal. Where a registrant cannot appeal against the outcome of a hearing, the Authority's appeal period is 56 days beginning with the day in which notification of the decision was served on you. PSA will notify you promptly of a decision to refer. A letter will be sent by recorded delivery to your registered address (unless PSA has been notified by the GOC of a change of address).</p> <p>Further information about the PSA can be obtained from its website at <a href="http://www.professionalstandards.org.uk">www.professionalstandards.org.uk</a> or by telephone on 020 7389 8030.</p>
<b>Contact</b>
If you require any further information, please contact the Council's Hearings Manager at 10 Old Bailey, London, EC4M 7NG or, by telephone, on 020 7580 3898.