

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

GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL

F(23)21

AND

PRIYAL PATEL (01-24061)

PRIVATE HEARING

**DETERMINATION OF A SECOND SUBSTANTIVE REVIEW
2 APRIL 2026**

Committee Members:	Clive Powell (Chair/Lay) Vivienne Geary (Lay) Tasneem Dhanji (Lay) Gemma O'Rourke (Optometrist) Peena Govind (Optometrist)
Legal adviser:	Lara Akande
Clinical adviser:	Keith McIntyre
GOC Presenting Officer:	Leonie Hinds
Registrant:	Present and unrepresented
Hearings Officer:	Bernice Yeboah
Outcome:	Impaired - 6 months suspension order with a review.

DETERMINATION

Background

1. The Committee considered a Suspension Order of nine months imposed on the Registrant on 7 July 2025. It noted that its role today was to consider whether the Registrant's fitness to practise remained impaired and if so, what sanction if any was appropriate. The Committee was mindful that its duty is the protection of the public and the reputation of the Optometry profession.

Sitting in Private

2. The Committee received and accepted legal advice on the issue of sitting in private. The Legal Adviser directed the Committee to Rule 25. Having considered the nature of the allegation and the evidence before it, the Committee concluded that the entirety of the hearing should be held in private.

Findings regarding impairment

3. The Committee found that the fitness of Priyal Patel to practise as an optometrist is impaired.

Sanction

4. The Committee imposed a suspension order for a period of 6 months with a review. The suspension order will take effect from the expiry of the Registrant's current suspension order.

Chairman of the Committee: Clive Powell

Signature



Date: 2 April 2026

Registrant: Priyal Patel

Signature: sent to the registrant via email

Date: 2 April 2026

FURTHER INFORMATION
Transcript
A full transcript of the hearing will be made available for purchase in due course.
Appeal
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).
Professional Standards Authority
<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 www.professionalstandards.org.uk or by telephone on 020 7389 8030.</p>
Effect of orders for suspension or erasure
To practise or carry on business as an optometrist or dispensing optician, to take or use a description which implies registration or entitlement to undertake any activity which the law restricts to a registered person, may amount to a criminal offence once an entry in the register has been suspended or erased.
Contact
If you require any further information, please contact the Council's Hearings Manager at Level 29, One Canada Square, London, E14 5AA or by telephone, on 020 7580 3898.