BEFORE THE FITNESS TO PRACTISE COMMITTEE
OF THE GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL

GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL

F(26)34

AND

NICHOLAS GARTON (D-3170)

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 **Thursday 17 December to Friday 18 December 2026** 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 **Nicholas Garton** is impaired by virtue of the provisions contained in section 13D(2) of the Opticians Act 1989.

Euan Napier
Hearings Manager, General Optical Council

10 November 2026

ALLEGATION

The Council alleges that you, Nicholas William Garton (D-3170), a registered Dispensing Optician:

1. On 20 January 2026 you were convicted at Chelmsford Magistrates' Court of making 240 Category A indecent photographs/pseudo-photographs of a child, contrary to sections 1(1)(a) and 6 of the Protection of Children Act 1978, and/or;

2. On 20 January 2026, you were convicted at Chelmsford Magistrates' Court of making 255 Category B indecent photographs/pseudo-photographs of a child, contrary to sections 1(1)(a) and 6 of the Protection of Children Act 1978, and/or;

3. On 20 January 2026 at you were convicted at Chelmsford Magistrates' Court, were convicted, of making 452 Category C indecent photographs indecent photographs/pseudo-photographs of a child, contrary to sections 1(1)(a) and 6 of the Protection of Children Act 1978, and/or;

4. On 20 January 2026, you were convicted at Chelmsford Magistrates' Court, of possessing 5 prohibited images of a child, contrary to sections 62(1) and 66(2) of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009;

And by reason of the matters set out above, your fitness to practise is impaired by reason of conviction.

Committee Members:	Julia Wortley (Chair/Lay)
	Ian Hanson (Lay)
	Lisa Hill (Lay)
	Nahid Bennett (Dispensing Optician)
	Simon Pinnington (Dispensing Optician)
Legal Adviser:	Kelly Thomas
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.