

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

GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL

F(25)05

AND

ARMINDER PANESAR (01-18143)

**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 15 September to Wednesday 24 September 2025** 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 **Arminster Panesar** is impaired by virtue of the provisions contained in section 13D(2) of the Opticians Act 1989.

Euan Napier
Hearings Manager, General Optical Council

06 August 2025

ALLEGATION

The Council alleges in relation to you, Arminster Panesar (01-18143), a registered optometrist, that:

- 1) Between April and May 2017, whilst working at Vision Express [redacted] and whilst not included on the Ophthalmic Performers List (OPL), you:
 - (a) Treated NHS patients and/or conducted NHS eye examinations; and/or
 - (b) Completed your name on GOS forms and/or asked NHS patients to sign GOS forms;
- 2) On 25 April 2017, you examined Patient Q and you:
 - (a) Did not perform an adequate examination in that you:
 - (i) Did not look at and/or take any action in relation to the notes of the last visit; and/or
 - (ii) Did not examine and/or take any action in relation to the photographs; and/or
 - (iii) Did not obtain and/or record an adequate history, including how long and/or how often the current glasses were worn for; and/or
 - (vi) Did not measure and/or record her near vision
 - (b) Did not maintain adequate patient records in that you:
 - (i) Described the ophthalmoscopy lens as clear, although it was not examined; and/or
 - (ii) Recorded accommodation as 'normal' although it was not assessed;
- 3) On 2 May 2017, you examined Patient AN and you did not perform an adequate examination and/or maintain adequate records in that you:
 - (a) Did not take and/or record an adequate history; and/or
 - (b) Recorded 'No RAPD' when a swingling flashlight test had not been performed; and/or
 - (c) Recorded Van-Herricks measurement despite not using a Van Herricks technique; and/or
 - (d) Did not record and/or assess and/or arrange for assessment of intraocular pressure; and/or
 - (e) Did not measure and/or record visual fields; and/or
 - (f) Recorded 15 left exotropia when it was actually right exotropia; and/or
 - (g) Did not record the retinoscopy result.
- 4) Your conduct in relation to 2(b)(i) and/or 2(b)(ii) and/or 3b and/or 3c above was:
 - (a) Misleading; and/or
 - (b) Dishonest;

And by virtue of the facts set out above, your fitness to practise is impaired by reason of misconduct and/or deficient professional performance.

Committee Members:

Andy Brennan (Chair/Lay)
Ben Summerskill (Lay)
Asmita Naik (Lay)
Caroline Clark (Optometrist)
Alexander Howard (Optometrist)

Legal Adviser:

John Boumphrey

Hearings Officer:

Terence Yates

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.