

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

GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL

F(25)07

AND

OMER ARSHAD (01-27752)

**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 take commence at 9:30am on **Thursday 21 August – Friday 22 August 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 **Omer Arshad** is impaired by virtue of the provisions contained in section 13D(2) of the Opticians Act 1989.

Euan Napier
Hearings Manager, General Optical Council

1 July 2025

ALLEGATION

The Council alleges that you, Omer Arshad, a registered optometrist:

1. On 24 May 2024 at Staines Magistrates' Court, were convicted of having in your possession on 8 December 2021 indecent photographs, namely 1 Category A moving image of a child, contrary to section 160 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988.
2. On 24 May 2024 at Staines Magistrates' Court, were convicted of having in your possession on 8 December 2021 indecent photographs, namely 1 Category B still image of a child, contrary to section 160 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988.
3. On 24 May 2024 at Staines Magistrates' Court, were convicted of having in your possession on 8 December 2021 indecent photographs, namely 45 Category B moving images of children, contrary to section 160 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988.
4. On 24 May 2024 at Staines Magistrates' Court, were convicted of having in your possession on 8 December 2021 indecent photographs, namely 4 Category C still images of children, contrary to section 160 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988.
5. On 24 May 2024 at Staines Magistrates' Court, were convicted of having in your possession on 8 December 2021 indecent photographs, namely 6 Category C moving images of children, contrary to section 160 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988.
6. On 24 May 2024 at Staines Magistrates' Court, were convicted of making on 8 December 2021 an indecent photograph, namely 1 Category B still image of a child contrary to s.1(1)(a) of the Protection of Children Act 1978.

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

Committee Members:

Louise Fox (Chair/Lay)
Diane Roskilly (Lay)
Audrey McFarlane (Lay)
Kalpana Theophilus (Optometrist)
Sarvat Fida (Optometrist)

Legal Adviser:

Austin Stoton

Hearings Officer:

Arjeta Shabani

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.