

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

GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL

F(24)03

AND

SALLY HILTON (D-11927)

**DETERMINATION OF A SUBSTANTIVE REVIEW
18 July 2025**

Committee Members: Oluremi Alabi (Chair/Lay)
Ann McKechin (Lay)
Diane Roskilly (Lay)
Ian Taylor (Dispensing Optician)
Sarah Baylay (Dispensing Optician)

Legal adviser: Lara Akande

Clinical Adviser: Keith McIntyre

GOC Presenting Officer: Leonie Hinds

Registrant: Present

Registrant representative: John Graham

Hearings Officer: Latanya Gordon

Outcome: Impaired – 12 month Suspension Order

DETERMINATION

Background

1. The substantive hearing took place on 23 - 24 May 2024, 28 – 31 May 2024 and 29 July 2024. The substantive Fitness to Practise Committee found the allegation proved pursuant to Rule 46 (12) of the General Optical Council (Fitness to Practise) Rules Order of Council 2013 (the Rules).

First Substantive Review Hearing - 18 July 2025

Preliminary matters

2. The Committee heard and accepted the advice of the Legal Adviser with respect to the application to sit in private. The Legal Adviser advised that the Committee should consider the competing factors of privacy, transparency and the need for proportionate measures.
3. The Committee was satisfied that it was appropriate for all of the hearing to be heard in private.

Findings on Impairment

4. The Committee found that the Registrant's fitness to practise as a Dispensing Optician is currently impaired.

Sanction

5. Having determined that the Registrant's fitness to practise is currently impaired, the Committee went on to consider an appropriate sanction.
6. The Committee imposed a suspension order for a period of 12 months with a review hearing to take place before the period of suspension expires.

Chairman of the Committee: Oluremi Alabi



Signature

Date: 18 July 2025

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 10 Old Bailey, London, EC4M 7NG or, by telephone, on 020 7580 3898.