

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

GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL

F(25)31

AND

FRANCISCA GRACIA RUIZ (01-23179)

**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 **Tuesday 03 February 2026 – Friday 06 February 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 **Francisca Gracia Ruiz** is impaired by virtue of the provisions contained in section 13D(2) of the Opticians Act 1989.

Taz Chisango
Hearings Manager, General Optical Council
19 January 2026

ALLEGATION

The Council alleges in relation to you, Francisca Gracia Ruiz (01-23179), a registered Optometrist, that:

- 1. On or around January 2021 to August 2023, you undertook National Health Service Ophthalmic services without being listed on the England Ophthalmic Performers List.*
- 2. In an interview with NHS England on 7 November 2023, you stated that you had been given permission to undertake the NHS Ophthalmic services by a person at [redacted] Primary Care in January 2021, but you were unable to provide the details of who had given you permission.*
- 3. In your application to re-join the England Ophthalmic Performers List on 11 October 2019, you did not declare your previous fitness to practise history, including that:*
 - a. you had been removed from the England Ophthalmic Performers List in November 2019;*
 - b. you had been subject to suspension by a Committee of the Council in October 2019;*
 - c. you had been subject of an investigation by the Council which included an adverse finding;*
 - d. you had been the subject of an investigation in relation to your previous employment which included an adverse finding.*
- 4. Your conduct at paragraphs 1, 2 and/or 3 above:*
 - a. was dishonest; and/or*
 - b. lacked integrity.*

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

Committee Members:

Remi Alabi (Chair/Lay)
Joy Tweed (Lay)
Amanda Webster (Lay)
Iftab Akram (Optometrist)
Denise Connor (Optometrist)

Legal Adviser:

Alice Moller

Hearings Officer:

TBC

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.