

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

GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL

F(23)21

AND

PRIYAL PATEL (01-24061)

**DETERMINATION SUMMARY OF A 3rd SUBSTANTIVE REVIEW HEARING
14 SEPTEMBER 2026**

Committee Members:	Gerry Wareham (Chair/Lay) Lisa Hill (Lay) Jackie Alexander (Lay) Gemma O'Rourke (Optometrist) Peena Govind (Optometrist)
Clinical adviser:	Dr Keith McIntyre
Legal adviser:	Natalie Amey-Smith
GOC Presenting Officer:	Leonie Hinds
Registrant present/represented:	Yes and not represented
Registrant representative:	N/A
Hearings Officer:	Terence Yates
Impairment:	Impaired
Sanction:	6 months suspension (With Review)

DETERMINATION

Background

Substantive – 2-12 July 2024

The Committee determined a 12 months' suspension with a review and an immediate order at the substantive hearing. The suspension commenced on 9 August 2024 after the appeals period.

1st substantive review – 7 July 2025

The Committee determined a further 9 months' suspension order with a review.

2nd substantive review – 2 April 2026

The Committee determined a further 6 months' suspension order with a review.

3rd substantive review – 14 September 2026

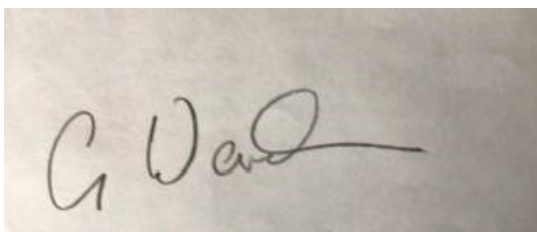
Findings regarding impairment

The Committee found that the fitness of Priyal Patel to practise as an optometrist is impaired.

Sanction

The Committee determined for the Registrant to be suspended for a further period of 6 months. This commences at the expiry of the current order on 9 November 2026.

Chairman of the Committee: Gerry Wareham

A photograph of a handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored surface. The signature appears to be 'G. Wareham'.

Signature

Date: 14 September 2026

Registrant: Priyal Patel

Signature present and received via email

Date: 14 September 2029

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
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. 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). Further information about the PSA can be obtained from its website at www.professionalstandards.org.uk or by telephone on 020 7389 8030.
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 Level 29, One Canada Square, London, E14 5AA or by telephone, on 020 7580 3898.