

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

GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL

F(23)21

AND

PRIYA PATEL (01-24061)

PRIVATE HEARING

**FIRST SUBSTANTIVE REVIEW
7 JULY 2025**

Committee Members:	Oluremi Alabi (Chair) Clive Powell (Lay) Dr. Jackie Alexander (Lay) Maninder Gupta (Optometrist) Alexander Howard (Optometrist)
Clinical Adviser	Dr Jennifer Bearn.
Legal adviser:	Dr Austin Stoton
GOC Presenting Officer:	Neel Rokad
Registrant:	Present and unrepresented
Registrant representative:	Unrepresented
Hearings Officer:	Latanya Gordon
Outcome:	Impaired
Sanction:	Suspension for 9 months (with review)

Introduction

The Committee considered a Suspension Order of twelve months imposed on the registrant on the 12th July 2024. It noted that its role today was to consider whether the Registrant's fitness to practise remained impaired and if so, what sanction if any was appropriate. The Committee was mindful that its duty is the protection of the public and of the profession of Optometry.

Sitting in Private

The Committee received and accepted legal advice on the issue of sitting in private. The Legal Adviser directed the Committee to Rule 25. Having considered the nature of the allegation and the evidence before it, the Committee concluded that the entirety of the hearing should be held in private.

Findings regarding impairment

The Committee determined that the Registrant's fitness to practise is currently impaired.

Sanction

The Committee ordered that the Registrant's registration be suspended for a period of 9 months. The order will be reviewed prior to its expiration.

Chair of the Committee: Oluremi Alabi



Signed

Date

7 July 2025

FURTHER INFORMATION	
Transcript	
A full transcript of the hearing will be made available for purchase in due course.	
Effect of orders for suspension	
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.	
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.	