

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

GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL

F(24)27

AND

CHRISTOPHER WATSON (D-7580)

**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 commence at 9:30am on **Monday 13 January to Monday 20 January 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 **Christopher Watson** is impaired by virtue of the provisions contained in section 13D(2) of the Opticians Act 1989.

Vineeta Desai
Head of Hearings, General Optical Council

7 November 2024

ALLEGATION

The Council alleges that you, Christopher Watson, a registered dispensing optician whilst employed at Specsavers Opticians, [redacted]:

1. Between 1 November 2022, and 30 November 2022 you;
 - a. approached Ms B whilst on her lunch break and forcefully hugged her without her consent;
 - b. kissed Ms B on her mouth twice without her consent;
2. On or around 18 March 2023, you:
 - a. forcefully kissed Ms B on the head without her consent;
 - b. hugged Ms B without her consent;
3. Your conduct as set out as 1 and 2 above was:
 - a. Inappropriate;
 - b. Sexually motivated in that it was in pursuit of sexual gratification;

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

Committee Members:

Julia Wortley (Lay)

Victoria Smith (Lay)

Mark Richards (Lay)

Jill Perry (Dispensing Optician)

Ian Taylor (Dispensing Optician)

Legal Adviser:

Kelly Thomas

Hearings Officer:

Terence Yates

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.