

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

GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL

F(24)32 & F(24)51

AND

STEVEN SMITH (D-16822)

**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 **Monday 23 June - Friday 27 June 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 **Steven Smith** is impaired by virtue of the provisions contained in section 13D(2) of the Opticians Act 1989.

Euan Napier
Hearings Manager, General Optical Council

23 April 2025

ALLEGATION

The Council alleges that you, Mr Steven Smith (D-16822), a registered Dispensing Optician:

- 1. On 22 June 2015, 23 June 2015 and 25 June 2015 at [REDACTED ADDRESS] in the county of Buckinghamshire assaulted [REDACTED NAME] by beating her. Contrary to section 39 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988.*

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

The Council alleges that you, Mr Steven Smith (D-16822), a registered Dispensing Optician:

2007 conviction

- 1. On 19 April 2007, you received a conviction from Nottingham Magistrates Court for an offence in that, on 12 April 2007 you were charged in the city of Nottingham for driving a motor vehicle namely a Volvo [REGISTRATION REDACTED] on a road namely [REDACTED ROAD] after consuming so much alcohol that the proportion of it in your blood, namely 101 milligrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood exceeded the prescribed limit contrary to Section 5(1)(A) of the Road Traffic Act 1988 and Schedule 2 to the Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988;*
- 2. Failed to declare on your restoration application dated 6 March 2008 that you received a conviction in relation to the offence at 1) above;*

2011 conviction

- 3. On 12 October 2011, you received a conviction from Nottingham Crown Court for an offence in that, upon your own confession, was convicted on indictment of Assault a person thereby occasioning them actual bodily harm;*
- 4. Failed to declare on your online retention application dated 2 March 2015 that you received a conviction in relation to the offence at 3) above;*
- 5. Failed to declare on your online retention application dated 15 March 2016 that you received a conviction in relation to the offence at 3) above;*
- 6. Failed to declare on your fully qualified restoration form dated 17 February 2018 that you received a conviction in relation to the offence at 3) above;*
- 7. Failed to declare on your online retention application dated 16 March 2018 that you received a conviction in relation to the offence at 3) above;*
- 8. Failed to declare on your online retention application dated 23 February 2019 that you received a conviction in relation to the offence at 3) above;*

9. *Failed to declare on your online retention application dated 12 March 2020 that you received a conviction in relation to the offence at 3) above;*
10. *Failed to declare on your online retention application dated 1 March 2021 that you received a conviction in relation to the offence at 3) above;*
11. *Failed to declare on your online retention application dated 17 February 2022 that you received a conviction in relation to the offence at 3) above;*
12. *Failed to declare on your online retention application dated 17 February 2023 that you received a conviction in relation to the offence at 3) above;*
13. *Failed to declare in your online self-declaration dated 18 September 2023 that you received a conviction in relation to the offence at 3) above;*

2015 conviction

14. *Failed to declare on your online retention application dated 2 March 2015 that you were under police investigation for the offence of battery;*
15. *Failed to declare on your online retention application dated 15 March 2016 that you received a conviction and suspended sentence on 21 September 2015 for the offences of battery dated 22 June 2015 and/or 23 June 2015 and/or 25 June 2015;*
16. *Failed to declare on your fully qualified restoration form dated 17 February 2018 that you received a conviction and suspended sentence on 21 September 2015 for the offences of battery dated 22 June 2015 and/or 23 June 2015 and/or 25 June 2015;*
17. *Failed to declare on your online retention application dated 16 March 2018 that you received a conviction and suspended sentence on 21 September 2015 for the offences of battery dated 22 June 2015 and/or 23 June 2015 and/or 25 June 2015;*
18. *Failed to declare on your online retention application dated 23 February 2019 that you received a conviction and suspended sentence on 21 September 2015 for the offences of battery dated 22 June 2015 and/or 23 June 2015 and/or 25 June 2015;*
19. *Failed to declare on your online retention application dated 12 March 2020 that you received a conviction and suspended sentence on 21 September 2015 for the offences of battery dated 22 June 2015 and/or 23 June 2015 and/or 25 June 2015;*
20. *Failed to declare on your online retention application dated 1 March 2021 that you received a conviction and suspended sentence on 21 September 2015 for the offences of battery dated 22 June 2015 and/or 23 June 2015 and/or 25 June 2015;*

21. *Failed to declare on your online retention application dated 17 February 2022 that you received a conviction and suspended sentence on 21 September 2015 for the offences of battery dated 22 June 2015 and/or 23 June 2015 and/or 25 June 2015;*
22. *Failed to declare on your online retention application dated 17 February 2023 that you received a conviction and suspended sentence on 21 September 2015 for the offences of battery dated 22 June 2015 and/or 23 June 2015 and/or 25 June 2015;*
23. *Only declared to the GOC that you received a conviction and suspended sentence on 21 September 2015 for the offences of battery dated 22 June 2015 and/or 23 June 2015 and/or 25 June 2015 because the job role you were applying for at this time required an Enhanced DBS check and/or outcome from the GOC;*

2023 conviction

24. *On 19 April 2023, you received a conviction from Southern Derbyshire Magistrates Court for an offence in that, on 31 August 2022 at [REDACTED] being the driver of a mechanically propelled vehicle, namely [REDACTED], owing to the presence of which on a road or other public place, namely [REDACTED], an accident occurred whereby damage was caused to another vehicle, namely [REDACTED], and not having given your name and address to a person having reasonable grounds for requiring you to do so, failed to report the accident at a police station or to a constable as soon as was reasonably practicable, and in any case within twenty-four hours of the occurrence of the accident. Contrary to section 170(4) of the Road Traffic Act 1988 and Schedule 2 to the Road Traffic Act 1988;*
25. *Failed to declare on your online retention application dated 17 February 2023 that you were under police investigation in relation to the offence at 24) above;*
26. *Failed to declare in your online self-declaration dated 18 September 2023 that you received a conviction in relation to the offence at 24) above;*
27. *Your conduct at 2) and/or 4) and/or 5) and/or 6) and/or 7) and/or 8) and/or 9) and/or 10) and/or 11) and/or 12) and/or 13) and/or 14) and/or 15) and/or 16) and/or 17) and/or 18) and/or 19) and/or 20) and/or 21) and/or 22) and/or 23) and/or 25) and/or 26) above was:*
 - i. *Lacking integrity; and/or*
 - ii. *Misleading; and/or*
 - iii. *Dishonest*

And by virtue of the facts set out above, your fitness to practise is impaired by reason of misconduct and/or conviction(s).

Committee Members: Graham White (Chair/Lay)
Miriam Karp (Lay)
Diane Roskilly (Lay)
Jill Perry (Dispensing Optician)
Ian Taylor (Dispensing Optician)

Legal Adviser: Clare Bunting

Hearings Officer: Natasha Bance

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.