

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

GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL

F(24)07

AND

EMMA TURNER (01-24849)

PRIVATE HEARING

**DETERMINATION SUMMARY OF A SUBSTANTIVE REVIEW HEARING
6 JANUARY 2025**

Committee Members:	Ms Julia Wortley (Chair/Lay) Ms Carolyn Tetlow (Lay) Ms Victoria Smith (Lay) Ms Danielle Ellis (Optometrist) Ms Ann Barrett (Optometrist)
Clinical adviser:	Dr Jennifer Bearn
Legal adviser:	Ms Kelly Thomas
GOC Presenting Officer:	Ms Kir West-Hunter
Registrant present/represented:	Yes and represented
Registrant representative:	Mr Nicholas Hall instructed by Ms Nan Mousley (AOP)
Hearings Officer:	Ms Natasha Bance
Impairment:	Impaired
Sanction:	Conditional Registration Order for 6 months – (With Review)
Immediate order:	None

DETERMINATION

Background

Following a substantive hearing on Monday 8 July- Friday 12 July 2024, it was found that the Registrant's fitness to practise was impaired on the grounds of public protection and in the public interest. The Registrant's registration was made subject to conditions for six months and it was necessary to impose an immediate order. The order was due to expire on Sunday 9 February 2025.

Findings regarding impairment

On Monday 6 January 2025, the Committee found that the fitness of Emma Turner to practise as an optometrist is impaired.

Sanction

A conditional registration order has been imposed on the Registrant's registration for a further period of six months. The order is due to expire on Saturday 9 August 2025.

The Committee determined that the following conditions should be imposed:

- 1) *You must inform the following parties that your registration is subject to conditions. You should do this within two weeks of the date this order takes effect:*
 - a. *Any organisation or person employing or contracting with you to provide paid or unpaid optical services, whether or not in the UK (to include any locum agency).*
 - b. *Any prospective employer or contractor where you have applied to provide optical services, whether or not in the UK.*
 - c. *The Chair of the Local Optometric Committee for the area where you provide optometric services.*
 - d. *The NHS body in whose ophthalmic performer or contractor list you are included or are seeking inclusion.*

- 2) *You must inform the GOC within two weeks if:*
 - a. *You accept any paid or unpaid employment or contract, whether or not in the UK, to provide optical services.*

- b. You apply for any paid or unpaid employment or contract to provide optical services outside the UK.*
- c. You cease working. This information must include the contact details of your prospective employer/ contractor and (if the role includes providing NHS ophthalmic services) the relevant NHS body.*

3) You must:

- a. Identify a workplace supervisor who would be prepared to monitor your conduct, wellbeing and any other concerns raised about your behaviour at work.*
- b. Arrange for the supervisor identified in a) to submit a report to the GOC at least 2 weeks before the Review Hearing, which must include specific reference to:*
 - i) your conduct at work and your general wellbeing;*
 - ii) any concerns raised, including in relation to your [redacted].*
- c. Ask the GOC to approve your workplace supervisor within 3 weeks of the date this order takes effect. If you are not employed, you must ask us to approve your workplace supervisor before you start work.*
- d. Identify another supervisor if the GOC does not agree to your being monitored by the proposed supervisor.*
- e. Place yourself under the supervision of the approved supervisor and remain under their supervision for the duration of these conditions.*
- f. At least once every 4 weeks meet your supervisor to review compliance with your conditions and your progress with any personal development plan.*
- g. At least 4 weeks before the Review Hearing or upon request by the GOC, submit a written report from your supervisor to the GOC, detailing how you have complied with the conditions they are monitoring.*
- h. Inform the GOC of any proposed change to your supervisor and again place yourself under the supervision of someone who has been agreed by the GOC.*

- 4) You must inform the GOC within 2 weeks if you become aware of any criminal investigation or disciplinary investigation against you.*

5) *You must continue to comply with all legal and professional requirements of registration with the GOC. A review hearing will be arranged at the earliest opportunity if you fail to:*

- a. Fulfil all CPD requirements; or*
- b. Renew your registration annually.*

6) *[redacted].*

7) *[redacted].*

8) *[redacted].*

Chairman of the Committee: Julia Wortley

Signature



Date: 6 January 2025

Registrant: Emma Turner

Signature *Present remotely and received via email*

Date: 6 January 2025

NOTICE TO REGISTRANT:

- The GOC will enter these conditions against your name in the register save for any conditions that disclose information about your *[redacted]*.
- In accordance with Section 13C(3) of the Opticians Act 1989, the GOC may disclose to any person any information relating to your fitness to practise in the public interest.
- In accordance with Section 13B(1) of the Opticians Act 1989, the GOC may require any person, including your learning/workplace supervisor or professional colleague, to supply any information or document relevant to its statutory functions.

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
<p>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.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>Further information about the PSA can be obtained from its website at www.professionalstandards.org.uk or by telephone on 020 7389 8030.</p>
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