

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

GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL

F(23)40

AND

HERKIRAN RIYAIT (01-27741)

**DETERMINATION OF A SUBSTANTIVE REVIEW
29 JANUARY 2025**

Committee Members: Julia Wortley (Chair/Lay)
Nigel Pilkington (Lay)
Ben Summerskill (Lay)
Claire Roberts (Optometrist)
Amit Jinabhai (Optometrist)

Legal adviser: Clare Bunting

Clinical Adviser: Keith McIntyre

GOC Presenting Officer: Katherine Higgs

Registrant: Not present and unrepresented

Registrant representative: N/A

Hearings Officer: Terence Yates

Outcome: Fitness to Practice – impaired
Extend order of suspension for a further period of 12 months with review



DETERMINATION

Background

1. The Registrant is a GOC registered Optometrist. She first registered with the Council on 18 October 2013. She had no previous fitness to practise history.
2. The Registrant's registration was suspended for 12 months following a substantive hearing held on 29 January to 02 February 2024. The order is due to expire on 03 March 2025.

Findings regarding impairment

3. The Committee found that the fitness of the Registrant to practise as an Optometrist is currently impaired.

Sanction

4. The Committee extended the current suspension order for a period of 12 months.
5. A review hearing will be held between four and six weeks prior to the expiration of this order. The Committee would encourage the Registrant to engage, and to this extent the reviewing committee will need to be satisfied:
 - the Registrant has fully appreciated the gravity of the conduct;
 - the Registrant has maintained her skills and knowledge; and
 - that the Registrant's patients would not be placed at risk by resumption of practice.

Chair of the Committee: Julia Wortley

Signature

Date: 29 January 2025

Registrant: Herkiran Riyait

Signature not present – sent via email

Date: 29 January 2025



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
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.