

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

GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL

F(24)19

AND

LATEEF IQBAL (01-23160)

**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:

Blended hearing

This means part of the hearing will be held physically in person and part of the hearing will be held remotely via video conference facilities.

The substantive hearing will take place on:

Physically – **Monday 17 March 2025 – Friday 28 March 2025** at **9:30am** at the **General Osteopathic Council, Osteopathy House, 176 Tower Bridge Rd, London SE1 3LU**

Remotely – **Monday 31 March – Friday 4 April 2025**

The Inquiry will be based upon the allegation submitted by the Council (see below) and will determine whether the fitness to practise of **Lateef Iqbal** is impaired by virtue of the provisions contained in section 13D(2) of the Opticians Act 1989.

Vineeta Desai
Hearings Manager, General Optical Council

14 February 2025

ALLEGATION

The Council alleges that you, Lateef Iqbal (01-23160), a registered optometrist whilst employed at Specsavers Opticians [redacted]:

1. On or around 7 May 2021, you prescribed Patient A with a reading addition of +1.00 in their right and left eye and;
 - a. Did not measure and/or record their near function without a reading addition;
 - b. Did not measure and/or record their binocular status;
 - c. Did not measure and/or record their accommodative and/or convergence facility;
 - d. Did not appropriately investigate symptoms and/or provide clinical justification for prescribing;
2. On or around 7 May 2021, you prescribed Patient B with a reading addition of +1.00 in their right and left eye and;
 - a. Did not measure and/or record their near visual function without a reading addition;
 - b. Did not measure and/or record their accommodative and/or convergence facility;
 - c. Did not appropriately investigate symptoms and/or provide clinical justification for prescribing;
3. On or around 23 April 2021 you prescribed Patient C with a reading addition of +0.75 in their right and left eye and;
 - a. Did not measure and/or record their accommodative and/or convergence facility;
 - b. Did not appropriately investigate symptoms and/or provide clinical justification for prescribing;
4. On or around 23 April 2021, you prescribed Patient D with a reading addition of +0.50 and;
 - a. Did not measure and/or record their near visual function without a reading addition;
 - b. Did not measure and/or record their binocular status;

- c. Did not measure and/or record their accommodative and/or convergence facility;
 - d. Did not appropriately investigate symptoms and/or provide clinical justification for prescribing;
- 5. On or around 23 April 2021, you prescribed Patient E with a reading addition of +0.50 and;
 - a. Did not measure and/or record their binocular status;
 - b. Did not measure and/or record their accommodative and/or convergence facility;
 - c. Did not appropriately investigate symptoms and/or provide clinical justification for prescribing;
- 6. On or around 7 May 2021, you prescribed Patient F with a reading addition of +0.50 in their right and left eye and;
 - a. Did not measure and/or record their near visual function without a reading addition;
 - b. Did not measure and/or record their accommodative and/or convergence facility;
 - c. Did not measure and/or record their near vision ocular motor balance;
 - d. Did not appropriately investigate symptoms and/or provide clinical justification for prescribing;
- 7. On or around 7 May 2021, you prescribed Patient G with a reading addition of +0.75 in their right and left eye and;
 - a. Did not measure and/or record their near visual function with the distance correction;
 - b. Did not measure and/or record their accommodative and/or convergence facility;
 - c. Did not appropriately investigate symptoms and/or provide clinical justification for prescribing;
- 8. On or around 7 May 2021, you prescribed Patient H with a reading addition of +0.50 in their right and left eye and;

- a. Did not measure and/or not record their near visual acuity without a reading addition;
 - b. Did not measure and/or record their accommodative and/or convergence facility;
 - c. Did not appropriately investigate symptoms and/or provide clinical justification for prescribing;
9. On or around 7 May 2021, you prescribed Patient I with a reading addition of +0.50 in their right and left eye and;
- a. Did not measure and/or record their near visual function without a reading addition;
 - b. Did not measure and/or record their accommodative and/or convergence facility;
 - c. Did not appropriately investigate symptoms and/or provide clinical justification for prescribing;
10. On or around 21 March 2021, you prescribed Patient K with a reading addition of +0.75 in their right and left eye and;
- a. Did not measure and/or record their near visual function without a reading addition;
 - b. Did not measure and/or record their accommodative and/or convergence facility;
 - c. Did not appropriately investigate symptoms and/or provide clinical justification for prescribing;
11. On or around 19 February 2021, you prescribed Patient L with a reading addition of +0.75 in their right and left eye and;
- a. Did not measure and/or not record their near visual acuity without a reading addition;
 - b. Did not measure and/or record their accommodative and/or convergence facility;
 - c. Did not appropriately investigate symptoms and/or provide clinical justification for prescribing;
12. On or around 19 February 2021, you prescribed Patient M with a reading addition of +0.50 in their right and left eye and;
- a. Did not measure and/or not record their near visual acuity without a reading addition;

- b. Did not measure and/or record their accommodative and/or convergence facility;
 - c. Did not appropriately investigate symptoms and/or provide clinical justification for prescribing;
13. On or around 8 July 2021, you prescribed Patient N with a reading addition of +1.00 in their right and left eye and;
- a. Did not measure and/or not record their near visual acuity without a reading addition;
 - b. Did not measure and/or record their convergence facility;
 - c. Did not appropriately investigate symptoms and/or provide clinical justification for prescribing;
14. On or around 31 March 2021, you prescribed Patient O with a reading addition of +0.75 in their right and left eye and;
- a. Did not measure and/or not record their near visual acuity without a reading addition;
 - b. Did not measure and/or record their accommodative and/or convergence facility;
 - c. Did not appropriately investigate symptoms and/or provide clinical justification for prescribing;
15. Between December 2020 and November 2021, you encouraged dispensing opticians to rush the dispense of optical lenses through starting competitions between them.
16. You removed or arranged for the removal of end dates from patient contact lens specifications.
17. Whilst carrying out your duties as a pre-registrant supervisor at [Branch 1] and [Branch 2], you failed to ensure that supervision was undertaken appropriately in that:
- a. you were not in a position to adequately supervise when you were in your office as this office is located on a different floor from the pre-registration optometrist and you would have to go downstairs, out onto the street and in the store from the office to where the pre-registration optometrist was serving patients;
 - b. you would arrive at the practice when a trainee's clinic had already started, having made no arrangements for alternative supervision.

- c. you were not always on the premises during business hours and you would often leave the premises to visit Specsavers Opticians [Branch 2] or local shops whilst trainees performed sight tests and other staff would also pre-test without a clinician in the building;
- d. Pre-registrants and their supervisors were given inadequate time or the same testing time as qualified optometrists for supervision meaning that they were unable to be adequately supervised;
- e. you failed to provide adequate assistance to pre-registrant optometrists leading to pre-registrant optometrists consulting each other if they had any doubts or concerns;

18. You failed to maintain adequate records in that when completing dispense notes, you provided inadequate notes or no notes at all;

19. Your actions as set out in 1 – 14 were dishonest in that you prescribed reading additions for several patients without any appropriate clinical justification and for financial gain;

20. Your actions as set out in 16 lacked integrity in that the removal of the end dates meant patients could be charged for contact lenses indefinitely;

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

Committee Members: Hermione McEwen (Lay)
Miriam Karp (Lay)
Paul Curtis (Lay)
Amit Jinabhai (Optometrist)
Kalpana Theophilus (Optometrist)

Legal Adviser: Kelly Thomas

Hearings Officer: TBC

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.