

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

**GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL**

**F(20)41**

**AND**

**JANE LAI (01-15386)  
PRIVATE HEARING**

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**DETERMINATION SUMMARY OF A 2<sup>nd</sup> SUBSTANTIVE REVIEW  
27 OCTOBER 2022**

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<b>Committee Members:</b>	Ms Julia Wortley (Chair/Lay) Dr Jackie Alexander (Lay) Ms Victoria Smith (Lay) Ms Sarvat Fida (Optometrist) Mr Kamlesh Gohil (Optometrist)
<b>Clinical Adviser:</b>	Dr Keith McIntyre
<b>Legal adviser:</b>	Mr Alastair McFarlane
<b>GOC Presenting Officer:</b>	Mr Lee Bridges (Kingsley Napley)
<b>Registrant:</b>	Not present
<b>Registrant representative:</b>	Not represented
<b>Hearings Officer:</b>	Ms Abby Strong-Perrin
<b>Outcome:</b>	Suspension extended by 12 months (With Review)

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## **2<sup>nd</sup> Substantive Review – 27 October 2023**

### **Preliminary issue regarding sitting in private**

The Committee considered the issue of whether to sit in private. The Legal Adviser referred to Rule 25(3) of the General Optical Council (Fitness to Practise) Rules Order of Council 2013 (the 2013 Rules). Mr Bridges, on behalf of the Council, invited the Committee to hear the entire review hearing in private.

### **Proof of service**

The Committee was satisfied that service of the notice had been sent in accordance with the requirements.

### **Proceeding in the absence of the Registrant**

The Committee determined that it would be in the public interest and in the interest of justice for the hearing to proceed in the Registrant's absence.

### **Findings regarding impairment**

The Committee found that the fitness of Ms Lai to practise as an optometrist remains impaired.

### **Sanction**

The Committee determined to extend the order for suspension for a further 12 months, with a review prior to the termination of the order.

**Chair of the Committee: Julia Wortley**



**Signature**

**Date: 27 October 2023**

<b>FURTHER INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Transcript</b>	
	A full transcript of the hearing will be made available for purchase in due course.
<b>Appeal</b>	
	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).
<b>Professional Standards Authority</b>	
	<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 <a href="http://www.professionalstandards.org.uk">www.professionalstandards.org.uk</a> or by telephone on 020 7389 8030.</p>
<b>Effect of orders for suspension or erasure</b>	
	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.
<b>Contact</b>	
	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.