

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

GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL

F(24)02

AND

SOHAIB SAFDAR (01-25897)

**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 03 June – Friday 07 June 2024 at 09:30AM at 10 Old Bailey London, EC4M 7NG.**

Remotely – **Monday 10 June – Friday 14 June 2024 at 09:30AM via Microsoft Teams.**

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

Louise Hall
Operations Manager (Hearings), General Optical Council

18 March 2024

ALLEGATION

The Council alleges that in relation to you, Sohaib Safdar (01-25897), a registered optometrist:

- 1) Between 15 June 2021 and 1 October 2021, you failed to adequately and/or appropriately supervise some or all of the eye examinations conducted by Mr R, in the clinics listed in Schedule A, in that you told Mr R to perform clinics alone, or words to that effect, for some or all of the eye examinations listed in Schedule A; and/or
- 2) Your conduct at 1) above was inappropriate in that you knew or ought to have known about the requirement for supervision and your responsibility for ensuring that Mr R's clinical examinations were appropriately supervised;

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

Committee Members: Sara Fenoughty (Chair)
Victoria Smith (Lay)
John Vaughan (Lay)
Amit Jinabhai (Optometrist)
Kalpana Theophilus (Optometrist)

Legal Adviser: Alecsandra Manning-Rees

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.