

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

GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL

F(23)02

AND

MARIAM HALING (SO-14896)

**DETERMINATION OF A SUBSTANTIVE HEARING
25 JULY – 09 AUGUST 2023 & 23-24 OCTOBER 2023**

PRIVATE

Committee Members:	Anne Johnstone (Chair/Lay) Paul Curtis (Lay) Ian Hanson (Lay) Alexander Howard (Optometrist) Gaynor Kirk (Optometrist)
Clinical adviser:	Dr Desmond Dunleavy
Legal advisers:	Mike Bell (25 July – 09 August 2023) Matthew Cassells (23-24 October 2023)
GOC Presenting Officer:	Selena Jones
Registrant present/represented:	Yes and not represented
Registrant representative:	N/A
Hearings Officers:	Terence Yates (25 July – 09 August 2023) Arjeta Shabani (23-24 October 2023)
Facts found proved:	Allegation 1
Facts not found proved:	None

Findings in relation to [redacted]:	Found
Impairment:	Found
Sanction:	Conditional registration order for 12 months with a review
Immediate order:	Immediate order for conditional registration

ALLEGATION

The Council alleges that you, Miss Mariam Haling (SO-14896), a registered Student Optometrist:

1. [redacted]

Schedule A

[redacted]

DETERMINATION

Application for the hearing to be in private

1. Ms Jones, on behalf of the Council, made an application for the hearing to be heard in private. The Registrant did not oppose this.
2. The Committee accepted the advice of the Legal Adviser. [redacted]
3. [redacted]

Admissions in relation to the particulars of the allegation

4. The Registrant did not admit any particulars of the allegation.

Findings in relation to Fact

5. The Committee found all the allegations proved.

Findings regarding impairment

6. The Committee found that Mariam Haling's fitness to undertake training as an optometrist is currently impaired.

Sanction

7. The Committee determined that a conditional registration order be placed for a period of 12 months.
8. The Committee determined that the following conditions should be imposed:
 1. *You must inform the following parties that your student registration is subject to conditions.*
 - a. *Any organisation or person employing or contracting with you to provide paid or unpaid optical services, whether or not in the UK and whether as an employee, worker, locum, student on placement or pre-registration trainee.*
 - b. *Any prospective employer or contractor where you have applied to provide optical services, whether or not in the UK and whether as an employee, worker, locum, student on placement or pre-registration trainee.*
 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 and/or any student placement or pre-registration trainee role.*

- b. *You apply for any paid or unpaid employment or contract to provide optical services outside the UK and/or any student placement or pre-registration trainee role.*
- 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. *Upon registration with a university and/or training provider for optical services, you must:*
 - a. *Identify a workplace supervisor and/or learning supervisor (as appropriate) who would be prepared to monitor your compliance with these conditions.*
 - b. *Ask the GOC to approve your workplace supervisor and/or learning supervisor (as appropriate) within 2 weeks of the date this order takes effect. If you are not employed and/or in training, you must ask us to approve your workplace supervisor before you start work.*
 - c. *Identify another supervisor if the GOC does not agree to your being monitored by the proposed supervisor.*
 - d. *Place yourself under the supervision of the approved supervisor and remain under their supervision for the duration of these conditions.*
 - e. *At least once a week when in a patient facing role perform an eye examination under the direct (in the same room) supervision of your supervisor.*
 - f. *You must work with your learning supervisor to draw up a personal development plan, specifically designed to address:*
 - i. *How you will manage workplace / [redacted] so that you conduct your personal/professional interactions with patients and colleagues appropriately.*
 - g. *You must send a copy of your personal development plan to the GOC within 2 weeks of the date upon which you commence any training as specified above.*
 - h. *At least once a fortnight meet your supervisor to review compliance with your conditions and to discuss the appropriateness of your interactions with patients and your management [redacted] (both in the workplace and generally).*
 - i. *At least every 2 months and at least 2 weeks before the next review hearing or upon request by the GOC, submit a written report from your supervisor to the GOC, detailing what, if any progress, you have made in respect of your personal development plan, complied with the conditions they are monitoring, the appropriateness of your interactions*

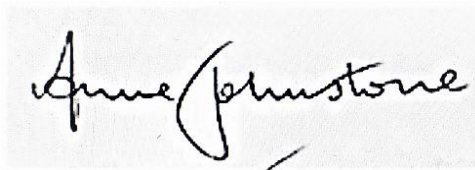
Immediate order

10. The Committee has decided to impose an immediate conditional registration order for the following reasons:
- a. Such an order is necessary for the protection of the public and otherwise in the public interest in the light of the Committee's finding that the Registrant's fitness to undertake training is impaired such that members of the public may be placed at unwarranted risk of harm if she was entitled to practise without restriction.

Revocation of interim order

11. The Committee hereby revokes the interim order for suspension of registration that was imposed on 5 July 2022.

Chair of the Committee: Anne Johnstone



Signature

Date: 24 October 2023

Registrant: Mariam Haling

Signature present via video link

Date: 24 October 2023

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.