

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

**GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL**

**F(11)25**

**AND**

**ANTHONY PETER PLIMMER (01-9062)**

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**NOTICE OF INQUIRY  
SUBSTANTIVE HEARING**

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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 conducted at the **General Optical Council, 41 Harley Street, London, W1G 8DJ** and will commence at **09:30 hrs on Monday, 20 February 2012** (and 21, 23-24 February if required).

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

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David Henley BEM  
Hearings Manager, General Optical Council

15 December 2011

## ALLEGATION

### Part A

The Council alleges that you, Anthony Peter Plimmer, a registered optometrist, during your employment with Vision Express Limited, between 18 May 2009 and 27 December 2009, you:

1. Failed to maintain adequate patient records in that you did not record the full details of the following patients' history and symptoms:

- a) Patient CB on 18 November 2009;
- b) Patient RB on 17 November 2009;
- c) Patient IV on 23 November 2009;
- d) Patient MD on 23 June 2009;
- e) Patient GW on 23 June 2009;
- f) Patient KS on 1 July 2009;
- g) Patient PD on 8 July 2009 and 3 September 2009;
- h) Patient AS on 14 July 2009;
- i) Patient HM on 8 November 2009;
- j) Patient CD on 12 November 2009;
- k) Patient MP on 5 November 2009;
- l) Patient BP on 19 October 2009;
- m) Patient CM on 26 October 2009;
- n) Patient JL on 18 June 2009 and 13 August 2009;
- o) Patient AB on 21 June 2009;
- p) Patient AK on 22 June 2009;
- q) Patient HT on 15 November 2009;
- r) Patient MD on 23 June 2009;
- s) Patient TM on 28 June 2009;
- t) Patient RL on 1 November 2009;

2. Failed to maintain adequate patient records in that you did not fully record the advice and recommendations given to the following patients:

- a) Patient CB on 18 November 2009;
- b) Patient GR on 22 October 2009;
- c) Patient BB on 10 August 2009;
- d) Patient JL on 18 June 2009 and 13 August 2009;
- e) Patient LR on 2 December 2009;
- f) Patient MT on 14 June 2009;
- g) Patient ME on 13 July 2009;
- h) Patient GP on 23 November 2009;

3. Failed to carry out full eye examinations for the following patients:

- a) Patient TS on 2 December 2009;
- b) Patient RB on 17 November 2009;
- c) Patient CM on 26 October 2009;
- d) Patient GR on 22 October 2009;
- e) Patient BB on 10 August 2009;
- f) Patient JL on 18 June 2009 and 13 August 2009;
- g) Patient BP on 19 October 2009;
- h) Patient JN on 25 November 2009;
- i) Patient MT on 14 June 2009;

- j) Patient EO on 18 June 2009;
- k) Patient AK on 22 June 2009;
- l) Patient MD on 23 June 2009;
- m) Patient GW on 23 June 2009;
- n) Patient DT on 24 June 2009;
- o) Patient TM on 28 June 2009;
- p) Patient SK on 29 June 2009;
- q) Patient KS on 1 July 2009;
- r) Patient HD on 5 July 2009;
- s) Patient KT on 5 July 2009;
- t) Patient PD on 8 July 2009 and 3 September 2009;
- u) Patient RL on 1 November 2009;
- v) Patient MP on 5 November 2009;
- w) Patient SS on 16 November 2009;
- x) Patient JN on 17 November 2009;
- y) Patient TR on 22 November 2009;

4. Failed to refer the following patients for further examination and/or treatment with Ophthalmologists when necessary:

- a) Patient TS on 2 December 2009;
- b) Patient CM on 26 October 2009;
- c) Patient AB on 21 June 2009;
- d) Patient GW on 23 June 2009;
- e) Patient ME on 13 July 2009;
- f) Patient AS on 14 July 2009;
- g) Patient RL on 1 November 2009;
- h) Patient IW on 2 November 2009;
- i) Patient GP on 4 November 2009;
- j) Patient HM on 8 November 2009;
- k) Patient MD on 23 June 2009;
- l) Patient TM on 28 June 2009;
- m) Patient MP on 5 November 2009;

5. Provided the following patients with incorrect, over-plussed prescriptions:

- a) Patient BP on 19 October 2009;
- b) Patient HT on 15 November 2009;
- c) Patient NC on 26 October 2009;
- d) Patient JN on 25 November 2009;
- e) Patient MB on 16 September 2009;
- f) Patient PK on 19 November 2009;
- g) Patient GB on 11 November 2009;
- h) Patient MW on 19 October 2009;
- i) Patient SS on 25 October 2009;
- j) Patient DH on 21 October 2009;
- k) Patient CM on 26 October 2009;

6. Failed to refer patient MP to an ophthalmologist on 22 September 2009 in a potential case of Glaucoma when the following risk factors were present:

- a) A decrease in the level of acuity in both eyes compared to that obtained previously in 2005 and 2008;
- b) A large arcuate defect in the superior field of the right eye which was present following a visual field test;

7. Failed to supervise staff adequately by not checking delegated pre-eye examination tasks in relation to patient MP;

8. Relied on the 2 out of 3 rule when conducting eye examinations which is an outdated procedure;

And by reason of the misconduct and/or deficient professional performance set out at 1-8 above your fitness to practise is impaired.

#### **Part B**

The Council alleges that you, Anthony Peter Plimmer, a registered optometrist:

1. During the period 16 March 2010 to 19 November 2010, failed to inform NHS Hertfordshire that you were subject to an investigation by the General Optical Council;

2. During the period 30 June 2010 to 19 November 2010, failed to inform NHS Hertfordshire that your registration was subject to an interim conditions order imposed by the Fitness to Practise Committee of the General Optical Council;

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

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**Committee Members:** Dr D Azubike (Lay)  
Ms F Jones (Lay)  
Mr R Kapoor (Optometrist)  
Ms C Viner (Optometrist)  
Lady Margaret Wall (Lay)

**Legal Adviser:** Mr D Swinstead

**Hearings Manager:** Mr D Henley BEM

**Transcribers:** Fiona Shipley Transcriptions Limited

If you require further information relating to this hearing, please contact the Council's Hearings Manager at 41 Harley Street, London, W1G 8DJ or, by telephone, on 020 7580 3898. If you require information relating to any non-hearing matters, please contact the Council's Communications Department on 020 7580 3898.