

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

**GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL**

**IO(11)07**

**AND**

**AJMER SINGH WAHIWALA (01-18566)**

**PRIVATE HEARING**

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**DETERMINATION OF APPLICATION FOR AN INTERIM ORDER  
18 NOVEMBER 2011**

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**Decision**

The Committee has to consider an application for an interim order. The basis of the application is that the registrant has a **redacted**.

The Council apply for the order on the basis that it is necessary for the protection of the public, is otherwise in the public interest and also in the interest of the registrant.

On behalf of the registrant Mr Singh has conceded that an interim order is necessary for the protection of the public and that the only practicable order that can be made in the circumstances of this case is an order for interim suspension, there being no conditions which would enable the registrant to practise safely. For example, there are no adaptations available that would sufficiently mitigate the effect of his condition.

The Committee regards that concession as sensible but has nonetheless a duty to exercise its own judgment. On the basis of the material which has been placed before it, which includes an opinion from a consultant in the relevant specialty the Committee is in no doubt that the registrant's **redacted** that he should not be practising as an optometrist. The Committee has noted the registrant's undertaking not to practise until these proceedings are resolved but has also noted that it appears to have taken some time for the registrant to appreciate or act upon the seriousness of his condition. The primary ground upon which the Committee makes the order is that of public protection.

The Committee is also satisfied that it is in the public interest, in terms of maintaining the standing of the profession and public confidence in the profession, that an optometrist with significantly **redacted** should not be practising.

The Committee has decided to impose an interim suspension order of 18 months. The Committee is satisfied that this is a proportionate period. Investigation of this case is still at an early stage. It is bound to take some time before matters can move towards a substantive hearing.

The Committee ordered that the registrant's registration be suspended for a period of 18 months from today. The order will be reviewed within 6 months from today unless all matters are resolved within that time, or earlier should new evidence be made available, or if the registrant, at any time after three months from today's date, requests an early review.

**Chairman of the Committee: Lady Margaret Wall**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date 18 November 2011