

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

**GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL**

**IO(11)09**

**AND**

**NADIA SHAM (SO-3120)**

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**DETERMINATION OF APPLICATION FOR AN INTERIM ORDER  
14 DECEMBER 2011**

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**Decision**

The Committee heard submissions from Mr Steele, for the Council and Mr Singh, for the registrant. The Committee accepted the advice of the Legal Adviser.

The Committee has considered whether to impose an interim order under s13L of the Opticians Act 1989 as being necessary for the protection of members of the public or otherwise in the public interest, or in the interests of the registrant. The Committee has decided that it was not necessary for an interim order at this stage on the grounds of being otherwise in the public interest or the interests of the registrant.

In considering whether an order was necessary for the protection of members of the public, the Committee was most concerned with the matter relating to the falsification of two patient records between January and February 2011 whilst she was an employee of Boots Opticians. The Committee considered that these matters were particularly grave involving potential risk to the safety of the patients concerned. The registrant does not dispute these matters. Whilst the Committee considered that failure to conduct tests could have been picked up by a supervisor, this would not be possible where false readings were recorded by the registrant. The Committee also considered whether it was proportionate for an interim order to be made. The Committee has weighed the issue of public protection with the registrant's own interests and has regard to the fact that the registrant is currently registered as a student optometrist and is in employment as an optical assistant.

Having considered all these matters the Committee decided that an interim suspension order should be imposed.

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: Mercy Jeyasingham MBE**

Signed

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Date

14 December 2011