

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

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**IO(10)01**

**AND**

**SYED SHAH (SD-808)**

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**DETERMINATION OF 3<sup>rd</sup> REVIEW OF AN INTERIM ORDER  
11 JANUARY 2011**

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The Fitness to Practise Committee reviewed an Interim Order for the imposition of interim suspension of the registration of Syed Shah for a period of 12 months made by the Council on 3 February 2010. The order was reviewed on 19 July 2010 and again on 11 January 2011 and continued unchanged on both occasions. On 17 January 2011 the order was extended by the High Court until 1 February 2012. This is a further review which was required by statute.

Mr Shah was not present at the hearing due to a medical appointment. He was, however, represented by Mr Majid.

The Committee was also informed that the allegations against Mr Shah would be considered at a substantive hearing listed for 15 July 2011.

The Committee has comprehensively reviewed the existing order today. The Committee was informed by Mr Majid that his client is working as a shop assistant in an optical practice.

The position remains that Mr Shah committed a number of deliberate acts of dishonesty designed to conceal the fact that he did not have the qualifications necessary for his practice. This exposed the public to risk in that for over a year he was practising when not qualified to do so.

The Committee has considered this case very carefully and has concluded that it remains necessary for the protection of the public to continue the existing interim suspension order. Mr Shah's representative told the Committee that the continuation of the interim order was not opposed.

Given that Mr Shah admits the allegations of dishonesty against him, the Committee also considers that it is otherwise in the public interest for the suspension order to continue. This is to maintain public confidence in the probity of the profession.

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: Sir Alistair Graham**

Signed

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Date

11 April 2011