

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

IO(18)05

**FIFTH REVIEW OF AN INTERIM ORDER
DETERMINATION SUMMARY
17 APRIL 2020**

PRIVATE HEARING

Name of Registrant: Stephen Cohen

Registration number: D-2751

Professional status: Dispensing Optician

Type and length of interim order: The Fitness to Practise Committee imposed an interim order of suspension on 8 March 2018 for a period of 18 months. In February 2019, the order was replaced with an interim order of conditions. On 5 August 2019, the Committee determined to continue the interim order of conditional registration. On 31 October 2019 the Committee continued the conditions with variations. On 17 April 2020 the Committee continued the interim order of conditions imposed on 31 October 2020.

Review

The order is due to expire on 4 September 2020 and will be reviewed before its expiry by the High Court. The order may also be reviewed if the registrant, at any time after three months from today's date, request an early review.

The conditions with which the Registrant must comply are:

1. Informing others

You must inform the following parties that your registration is subject to conditions. You should do this within two weeks of the date this order takes effect.

1. Any organisation or person employing or contracting with you to provide paid or unpaid optical services, whether or not in the UK (to include any locum agency).

2. Any prospective employer or contractor where you have applied to provide optical services, whether or not in the UK.
3. Chairman of the Local Optometric Committee for the area where you provide optometric services.
4. The NHS body in whose ophthalmic performer or contractor list you are included or are seeking inclusion.

2. Employment and work

You must inform the GOC if:

1. You accept any paid or unpaid employment or contract, whether or not in the UK, to provide optical services.
2. You apply for any paid or unpaid employment or contract to provide optical services outside the UK.
3. 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. Supervision of Conditions

You must:

1. Maintain a workplace supervisor who is prepared to monitor your compliance with paragraph numbers 3.7, 3.8 and 6 of these conditions.
2. Ask the GOC to approve your workplace supervisor within 14 days of any change in your identified workplace supervisor. If you are not employed, you must ask the GOC to approve your workplace supervisor before you start or re-start work.
3. Identify another supervisor if the GOC does not agree to your being monitored by the proposed supervisor.
4. Place yourself under the supervision of the supervisor and remain under his/her supervision for the duration of these conditions.

5. Inform the GOC of any proposed change to your supervisor and again place yourself under the supervision of someone who has been agreed by the GOC.
6. At least once a month, meet your supervisor to review compliance with your conditions.
7. Undergo a monthly assessment by your supervisor of all contact lens patient records (up to a maximum of 10 records, selected at random by your supervisor).
8. At least every three months or upon request of the GOC, request a written report from your supervisor to be provided to the GOC, detailing:
 - (a) how you have complied with the conditions he/she is monitoring, and
 - (b) your standards of practice with respect to the areas of concern identified by the expert, namely:
 - i. Fitting contact lenses without an up to date spectacle prescription
 - ii. Undertaking appropriate examinations and tests
 - iii. Recording the outcome of those examinations and tests;
 - (c) your performance against the standards set out in the *ABDO Guidance on Contact Lens Records* as to your making records of patients' appointments;
 - (d) The outcome of the monthly assessment of patient records referred to in paragraph 7 above.

4. Other proceedings

You must inform the GOC within 14 days if you become aware of any criminal investigation or formal disciplinary investigation against you.

5. Registration requirements

You must continue to comply with all legal and professional requirements of registration with the GOC.

A review hearing will be arranged at the earliest opportunity if you fail to:

1. Fulfil all CET requirements; or
2. Renew your registration annually.

[REDACTED]