

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

GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL

F(06)09

AND

NEIL CARTER (01-9370)

NOTICE OF INQUIRY

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 **General Chiropractic Council, 44 Wicklow Street, London, WC1x 9HL** and will commence at **10.00 a.m. on Thursday 22 February 2007** (and Friday, 23 February 2007, 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 Neil Carter is impaired by virtue of the provisions contained in section 13D(2) of the Opticians Act 1989.

You have the right to attend the hearing and be represented in accordance with rule 20 of the Fitness to Practise Rules 2005.

If you do not attend and are not represented at the hearing, the Fitness to Practise Committee may nevertheless proceed if the conditions set out in Rule 21 are satisfied.

You also have the right to adduce evidence in accordance with Rule 46 and to call and cross-examine witnesses.

The Committee's powers of disposal are set out in sections 13F to 13I.

David Henley BEM
Hearings Manager, General Optical Council

17 January 2007

To:
Mr N Carter (01-9370)
Registrant

Copy to:

Mr J Foster
Solicitor to the Council

Mrs S Kapila, Association of Optometrists, 61 Southwark Street, London, SE1 0HL
Solicitor to the Registrant

ALLEGATION

The Council alleges that the fitness to practise of Neil Carter (a registered optometrist) is impaired, in that:

On the 20th June 2005, Neil Carter, failed:

1. to fully investigate the symptoms suffered by Patient A, in that Mr Carter did not ask him about any related symptoms that he had been suffering.
2. to:
 - a) Conduct a slit lamp test
 - b) Conduct a confrontation test
3. to maintain proper records in regards to his consultation of Patient A in that Mr Carter did not record a strategy for managing his condition, or record any of the advice given to Patient A relating to his presenting symptoms.

For the reasons set out above, Mr Carter is guilty of deficient professional performance,

AND in light of the above, Mr Carter's fitness to practice is impaired.

Committee Members: Dr D Azubike (Lay)
Ms M Hallendorff (Lay)
Mr R Holdsworth (Lay)
Ms A Hudson (Optometrist)
Dr R Stevenson (Optometrist)

Legal Adviser: Mr M Vere-Hodge QC

Hearings Manager: Mr D Henley BEM

Transcribers: Fiona Shipley Transcriptions Limited

If you require any further information, please contact the Council's Hearings Manager at 41 Harley Street, London, W1G 8DJ or, by telephone, on 020 7580 3898.