

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

GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL

IO(07)02

AND

NATHAN BENJAHMAN HILL (SO-1668)

DETERMINATION OF APPLICATION FOR AN INTERIM ORDER

- 8 MAY 2007 -

The Fitness to Practise Committee considered an application for an Interim Order made by the Council and decided as follows:

“We were satisfied that the Council complied with Rule 17 and that all reasonable efforts had been made to notify the registrant of the hearing. We determined that it would be in the public interest for the hearing to proceed in the registrant’s absence.

The material we have seen concerns allegations that have led to a criminal charge being laid against the registrant and to action by his university authorities. On the basis that the allegations are correct they reveal a situation which clearly requires action to protect the public. The alleged incident occurred around midday in the university library and the conduct alleged was persistent. Furthermore, his alleged response when challenged was uncooperative and unprofessional.

We are satisfied that the only means practicable to achieve the necessary protection of the public is an order for immediate suspension. We have in mind the fact that practitioners operate within close and intimate situations. We are also concerned to uphold professional standards and public confidence in the profession.

We have ordered that the registrant’s registration be suspended for a period of 18 months from today.

The effect of this order is that the registrant’s registration will be suspended for this period or until the earlier determination of his case. The Committee will review the order within a period of six months from today, and also for so long as the order remains in force will further review it before the end of the period of six months beginning on the date of the immediately preceding decision, or if after the end of the period of three months beginning on the date of the decision of the immediately



preceding review, the registrant requests an earlier review, as soon as practicable. The order may also be reviewed if new evidence relevant to the order becomes available.”