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STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

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**2013 No. 2537**

**HEALTH CARE AND  
ASSOCIATED PROFESSIONS**

**OPTICIANS**

**The General Optical Council (Fitness to  
Practise) Rules Order of Council 2013**

*Made - - - - 3rd October 2013*

*Laid before Parliament 16th October 2013*

*Coming into force 1st April 2014*

**THE GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL (FITNESS TO  
PRACTISE) RULES ORDER OF COUNCIL 2013**

This Order may be cited as the General Optical Council...  
Signature

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SCHEDULE — The General Optical Council (Fitness to Practise) Rules 2013

PART 1 — Citation, Commencement and Interpretation

1. These Rules may be cited as the General Optical Council...
2. Interpretation

PART 2 — INVESTIGATION

3. Delegation of functions of the Investigation Committee
4. Initial consideration and referral of allegations
5. Notification and evidence gathering

PART 3 — ASSESSMENTS OF INDIVIDUAL REGISTRANTS

6. Appointment of assessors and direction for assessment by the Investigation Committee
7. Appointment of assessors and direction for assessment by the Fitness to Practise Committee
8. Assessment notification
9. Date of assessment meeting
10. Assessment report
11. Failure to submit to or co-operate with an assessment

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PART 4 — REFERRAL TO THE FITNESS TO PRACTISE COMMITTEE

12. Consideration and decisions by the case examiners
13. Cases considered by the Investigation Committee
14. Warnings
15. Review of decision not to refer
16. Termination of referral

PART 5 — INTERIM ORDERS

17. Notification of application for interim order
18. Unless the registrar is of the view that the public...
19. Where, after the sending of the Notice of Interim Order...
20. Conduct of interim order hearings

PART 6 — HEARINGS OF THE FITNESS TO PRACTISE COMMITTEE

21. Representation
22. Proceeding in the absence etc. of the registrant
23. Joinder
24. The Fitness to Practise Committee may, where it considers it...
25. Substantive Hearings in public
26. Exclusion from hearings

PART 7 — PROCEDURE AND ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

27. Procedural and substantive hearings
28. Notification
29. Standard procedural directions
30. Procedural hearings
31. The Hearings Manager must serve on the parties notification in...
32. At a procedural hearing, the Fitness to Practise Committee may—...
33. (1) The Fitness to Practise Committee may vary the standard...
34. Date of substantive hearing
35. Adjournment
36. (1) Upon the hearing of an application under rule 35,...
37. Where the Fitness to Practise Committee decides to adjourn a...
38. Standard and burden of proof
39. The burden of proof at substantive hearings before the Fitness...
40. Admissibility of evidence
41. Vulnerable witnesses
42. Witnesses
43. Legal advisers
44. Clinical advisers
45. Specialist advisers
46. Order of proceedings at substantive hearings of the Fitness to Practise Committee
47. Questions
48. Declarations where allegation not proven
49. Where, in the case of a business registrant, it has...
50. Written decision
51. Notification and disclosure of outcome of investigations and hearings
52. Costs and expenses
53. (1) Where the Fitness to Practise Committee orders a party...
54. Period of payment

PART 8 — REVIEWS

55. Referral for a review
56. Notice of review
57. Date of review
58. Conduct of review hearing.

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PART 9 — MISCELLANEOUS

59. Voting
60. Record of hearing
61. Service of documents
62. Transitional provisions
63. Revocation

Explanatory Note