

# GOC Guidance

## DID YOU KNOW? - LOGISTICS

GOC is no longer taking telephone calls and all enquiries are to be made by email.

GOC staff are now working remotely and the GOC office is closed.

GOC Fitness to Practise Hearings will no longer be held in the office.

## DID YOU KNOW? - REGULATORY STATEMENTS

GOC has signed a **joint regulatory statement** which recognises that in "highly challenging circumstances, professionals may need to depart from established procedures"

GOC will be publishing a series of statements specific to registrants relating to conduct during the COVID-19 crisis.

## DID YOU KNOW? - SUPPLY OF GLASSES AND CONTACTS AND AFTERCARE

**GOC Statement 19 March 2020** on supply of spectacles and contact lenses.  
Optical Practices should consider sending spectacles and contact lenses by post where there is no clinical need to attend an optical practice and/or if the contact lens specification is current.  
If there is a clinical need, Optometrists should use their 'professional judgement to decide on the best course of action.'

**GOC 20 March 2020 Statement** on Contact Lens Aftercare Under s27(3B) Opticians Act, patients must receive aftercare. Registrants must exercise professional judgment as to level of aftercare; could include remote consultation. Important to record aftercare plan & reasoning

## DID YOU KNOW? - EDUCATION QUALITY ASSURANCE

**GOC Statement 25 March 2020**  
GOC sensitive to the fact that education providers are working in "very challenging circumstances"  
During this emergency, GOC approach to quality assurance will be "flexible and pragmatic"

During emergency, may adjust Annual Monitoring and Reporting (AMR) period

GOC will contact all affected providers to request:

1. An outline of what teaching & assessment activity the provider is able to deliver (if any) during original planned period for GOC visit
2. Any potential areas requiring regulatory support from GOC

GOC has asked providers to notify them of any temporary changes they are making. GOC have a "notification of temporary changes" form.

GOC's preferred option is to delay or postpone quality assurance activity & set a review date

## DID YOU KNOW? - GOC APPROACH IN FTP DURING COVID-19

**GOC Statement on Approach** in Fitness to Practise for the Service of Documents and Facilitating Hearings during the COVID-19 Emergency

Hearings in person will no longer take place. Where possible remote virtual hearings will be held or decisions made on the papers. If either party considers this unsuitable, they should apply an for adjournment.

GOC has moved to sending all notifications, notices and documents electronically, via GOC secure email systems (Egress or Tresorit) to the email address that the registrant has registered with GOC. If the registrant is represented, emails will go to the representative.

GOC will provide a dial-in link for virtual public hearings in order for interested parties to attend. As before, the Committee may sometimes consider it appropriate that part/entire hearing should be in private.

All registrants should ensure their contact details are up to date on their MyGOC account. For data protection, this must be a personal email address.