About the GOC

The GOC regulates the optical professionals in the United Kingdom. It has **30,189 professionals** and **2,884 optical businesses** on its register (as at 31 December 2022).

professional standards authority

for Health and Social Care

Snapshot 2021/22

General Optical Council | Annual review of performance

About the GOC's performance for 2021/22

For this review, the GOC met 18 out of 18 of our Standards of Good Regulation. These Standards provide the benchmark against which we review performance. Meeting or not meeting a Standard is not the full story about how a regulator is performing. Our report provides more detail about the GOC's performance this year.

Standards of Good Regulation met for 2021/22 performance review

	General Standards	**5 out of 5**
	Guidance and Standards	**2 out of 2**
	Education and Training	**2 out of 2**
	Registration	**4 out of 4**
	Fitness to Practise	**5 out of 5**
Total Standards		**18 out of 18**

Standards met 2019-21

2020/21	**17 out of 18**
2019/20	**16 out of 18**

● Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

We have seen the GOC demonstrate its commitment to issues around EDI in a number of ways again this year. It now has a comprehensive set of registrant EDI data going back a number of years, and has started collecting EDI data as part of its annual public perceptions survey; this data will provide the GOC with robust evidence from which it can draw informed conclusions and take appropriate action. We encourage the GOC to share good practice and lessons learned from its work in this area with other regulators.

● Fitness to Practise timeliness

We have been critical of the time it has taken the GOC to progress cases through its fitness to practise system for a number of years. However, the GOC has maintained the improvements in timeliness we saw last year, and its performance now compares favourably against the other regulators. We recognise the work that has gone into making these improvements and are pleased to report that the GOC has met Standard 15 this year. The GOC continues to identify opportunities to improve, and has an ongoing programme of work that should positively affect the timeliness of its fitness to practise processes.

● Communications and stakeholder support

Although much of the feedback we received from stakeholders this year was positive, we did receive some critical comments about how the GOC had handled the implementation of two major projects: the new Education and Training Requirements (ETR); and the new Continuing Professional Development (CPD) system. We were also told about the impact that delays to removals at the end of the 2019-21 Continuing Education and Training (CET) cycle had on registrants.

Find out more about our performance reviews, including:
- the Standards of Good Regulation
- A short guide to how we carry out our reviews
- Read recent reports