

On **8 November 2023** the General Pharmaceutical Council's Investigating Committee considered an allegation in relation to **Mrs Poonam Rai, registration number: 2217261** and determined to issue the registrant concerned with a warning in relation to the conduct alleged.

The Committee concluded that the appropriate outcome in this case is a warning with the wording of:

*This matter involves Mrs Rai who self-declared that she had been convicted for failing to comply with a breach of condition notice in August 2022. This breach was relation to a notice that was issued by Coventry City Council regarding a planning permission application submitted by Mrs Rai's mother-in-law. Planning permission was granted for the use of an outbuilding as a home gym. A stipulation of the planning permission was Condition 4 which clearly stated that the premises could not be used for the purpose of trade or business. Mrs Rai and her family began operating a pharmacy from the said building in their garden and a number of concerns were raised by members of the neighbouring public. The local council enforced the condition through Magistrates' Court proceedings resulting in a conviction. Mrs Rai also failed to inform the Registrar of the conviction within the requisite seven days.*

*Mrs Rai has provided an explanation for her actions, essentially that [PRIVATE] she was unaware about the condition. It is noted that the planning permission application was submitted by [PRIVATE] not Mrs Rai herself. She has apologised for her actions and has reflected on them.*

*The premises were inspected by one of the GPhC inspectors and signed off to be used as a pharmacy in 2019. The registration documents also confirm the use as a pharmacy. Mrs Rai stated to the inspector that appropriate planning permission had been obtained. On the basis of her explanation, it is clear that she did so without having checked whether this statement was accurate and so doing undermines her integrity.*

*The running of the pharmacy as a business did cause some distress to the public which has the potential to damage the reputation of the profession and undermine public confidence.*

*Equally in failing to ensure she had proper planning permission, the registrant risked having to close the business at short notice and being able to meet their contractual obligations with the NHS.*

*In order to mark the seriousness of her actions, and in order to declare and uphold standards within the profession, Mrs Rai is warned that she is expected to conduct herself in a manner that upholds professional standards and public confidence in the profession, this includes honesty and integrity. Should there be any further similar behaviour more serious regulatory intervention will be likely.*

*This warning will remain on the Register for 12 months.*