



North East and North Cumbria

Our Reference SD\North East and North
Cumbria ICB\FOI ICB542

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17 October 2023

Dear

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information – NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB)

Thank you for your request received by North of England Commissioning Support (NECS) on 19 September 2023 for information held by NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB) under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

NENC ICB covers the areas of County Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Cumbria, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland and Tees Valley (which covers the 5 councils that make it up – Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees).

Please find the information you requested on behalf of the ICB as follows.

Your Request

1. Annual total ICB spending on Ophthalmology services, as defined above, for the years 2017/18 to 2022/23. This should preferably be broken down by HRG Code and Treatment Function Code
2. Annual ICB Commissioned Activity on Ophthalmology services, as defined above, for the years 2017/18 to 2022/23. This should preferably be broken down by HRG Code and Treatment Function Code.
3. Commissioning and procurement strategy. Could you please provide a digest or summary of information, preferably with attached policy documents, which outline the ICB's current commissioning strategy with regard to Ophthalmology services.
 - *Here I would expect some ICBs to have conducted or inherited an assessment of the local demand for eye care treatments and strategies to meet this demand.*
 - *In 'determining whether this information is held' I would just expect a brief conversation with the responsible officer in case anything came to mind (which it may not) rather than an exhaustive search of the organisation.*
4. Independent Provider Information. For each of the five largest Independent Sector Providers, could you provide information for the most recent complete financial year 2022/23:

- a) Total Cataract Surgery Activity during the year
- b) Total Cataract Surgery payments during the year

Our Response

Responses to questions 1, 2 and 4 are in the spreadsheets attached. There are two spreadsheets – one for the North East and one for North Cumbria.

In response to question 3, NENC ICB has no specific commissioning and procurement strategy re ophthalmology services. For your reference, NENC ICB's [Joint Forward Plan 2024-25](#) was presented to the Integrated Care Partnership meeting on Tuesday 26 September 2023.

In line with the Information Commissioner's directive on the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 your request will form part of our disclosure log. Therefore, a version of our response which will protect your anonymity will be posted on the NHS ICB website <https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/>.

If you have any queries or wish to discuss the information supplied, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above telephone number or at the above address.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to the Senior Governance Manager using the contact details at the top of this letter quoting the appropriate reference number.

If you are not content with the outcome your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the North of England Commissioning Support Unit.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

www.ico.org.uk

Any information we provide following your request under the Freedom of Information Act will not confer an automatic right for you to re-use that information, for example to publish it. If you wish to re-use the information that we provide and you do not specify this in your initial application for information then you must make a further request for its re-use as per the Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015 www.legislation.gov.uk . This will not affect your initial information request.

Yours sincerely

S Davies

S Davies
Information Governance Officer