

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 24-262

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By Email

1 October 2024

Dear Applicant

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 24 September 2024 for information held by NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (the ICB) under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The ICB covers the areas of County Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Cumbria, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland, and Tees Valley (which covers the five local authorities of Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees).

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

Your Request

I am writing with a Freedom of Information request regarding the pricing and volume of both in-house and outsourced service-line agreements in ophthalmology. Please provide the following information for your organisation for the past five financial years (FY2019-20 to FY2023-24):

1. Total Spend and Volumes

The total spend (in £) and volume (number of procedures) for both in-house and outsourced provisions for each of the following ophthalmology procedure groups:

- Cataract surgeries
- AMD – eye injections
- AMD – photodynamic therapy
 - LASIK
 - SMILE
- Corrective laser eye surgeries (e.g. PRK, LASEK, TransPRK)

If your records use different categorisations or sub-categories within these procedure groups, please provide the total spend and volumes for those as well.

2. **Outsourcing Spend and Volumes by provider**

The volume and spend for each ophthalmology procedure group outsourced, broken down by specific private providers. Please specify the volume and spend for each of the following procedure groups for each provider:

- Cataract surgeries
- AMD – eye injections
- AMD – photodynamic therapy
 - LASIK
 - SMILE
- Corrective laser eye surgeries (e.g. PRK, LASEK, TransPRK)

If a detailed breakdown is not available, please provide a list of the ophthalmology groups/providers to which your organisation outsources.

To clarify: If the service is outsourced to anyone (an NHS trust, private provider, IS provider, etc) then it would count as 'outsourced' – so please break down how much of each procedure (volume) is done by each provider and how much is spent on each (data availability allowing).

If you expect the request to exceed time and cost limits, please prioritise spend over volume.

Our Response

We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB on this occasion is not able to provide the requested information. In line with your rights under section 1(1)(a) of the Act to be informed whether information is held, we confirm the ICB does not hold any of the information requested. However, we have determined that the information is held by the acute hospital NHS foundation trusts (FTs) within the North East and North Cumbria region.

In accordance with our duty under s.16 of the FOIA to provide reasonable advice and assistance to an individual requesting information, we have provided the FOI email addresses for those acute hospitals to make your request.

NENC Acute Hospital FTs	Email
County Durham and Darlington NHS FT	cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net
Gateshead Health NHS FT	ghnt.foi.enquiries@nhs.net
North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS FT	foirequest@cumbria.nhs.uk
North Tees and Hartlepool NHS FT	foi@nth.nhs.uk
Northumbria Healthcare NHS FT	foi@northumbria.nhs.uk
South Tees Hospitals NHS FT	foi@stees.nhs.uk
South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS FT	stsft.freedomofinformation@nhs.net
The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS FT	nuth.freedom.information@nhs.net

In accordance 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 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 review, you do have the right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. 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