

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 24–321

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By Email

10 December 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 20 November 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 to make a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I am seeking information regarding the Cataract pathway for patients within your ICS.

1. Please confirm if your ICS commissions a Pre-Cataract Assessment service.
 - a. If yes, please provide the name of the provider who delivers this service.
2. Please provide details of the referral pathway for patients who are being referred for FIRST eye Cataract surgery. Please state if referrals are made to a provider directly, via the patients GP or other route of referral (e.g. choice office).
3. Please provide details of the referral pathway for patients who are being referred for SECOND eye Cataract surgery. Please state if referrals are made to a provider directly, via the patients GP or other route of referral (e.g. choice office).
4. Please provide details of the referral pathway for patients who are being referred for YAG. Please state if referrals are made to a provider directly, via the patients GP or other route of referral (e.g. choice office).
5. Please confirm at which point of the pathway a patient is offered choice of provider (e.g. Optician, GP or Choice Office).
6. Please confirm if your ICS commissions a Post Cataract service.

- a. If yes, please provide the name of the provider who delivers this service (by place if required).
- b. If no, please provide details of who is responsible for post cataract surgery care. (e.g. surgical provider/patient).
- c. Please provide details of the pathway for your ICSs Post Cataract service.

Our Response

We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB does hold the information you have requested.

1. Yes, this is the Primary Eyecare Service. The service is provided by the following providers in the Tees area:

Blink Eyewear
 Boots – Cleveland Centre
 Boots – Hillstreet Centre
 Boots – Stockton
 Boots – Redcar
 Village Eyecare (PJB Saltburn)
 Campbell & McDermid
 EGE Hall Redcar
 EGE Hall Eston
 Hart Optical (Pagan & McQuade, T/A Thomas and Saunders)
 Hendersons Opticians - Stockton
 Hendersons Opticians - Yarm
 Hendersons Opticians (Stokeld & Stephens)
 Hugh Hepworth Opticians - Cleenish
 Home Visit Eyecare (Loftus Optical) Skelton
 Home Visit Eyecare (Loftus Optical) Saltburn
 Insite Eyecare Ltd (Eyedeal Optical)
 Intellisight Opticians
 JJJ Optical
 Keith Walker Opticians
 Mc Cormick & Gorman – Billingham
 Mc Cormick & Gorman – Middlesbrough
 Mellis Eyecare – Thornaby
 Mellis Eyecare – Middlesbrough
 S Thomas Opticians
 SH Reily – Saltburn
 SH Reily Ltd – Guisborough
 Specsavers – Coulby Newham
 Specsavers – Guisborough
 Specsavers – Hartlepool
 Specsavers – Middlesbrough
 Specsavers – Redcar
 Specsavers – Stockton
 TD Morton – Stockton
 TD Morton – Thornaby
 Timlins
 Rees and Wade Optom – Yarm
 Rees and Wade Optom – Darlington

2. Referral pathways are as follows:

- Patients registered with a GP in North Cumbria via GP Practice.
 - The ICB recently procured a Cataract Refinement Service for patients who have a registered GP in Northumberland, Newcastle Gateshead, and North Tyneside who choose to be referred to the Newcastle upon Tyne NHS Foundation Trust, the optometry service can refer directly or patients can be referred by GP Practice or via EyeV.
 - Patients registered with a GP in South Tyneside, and Sunderland via GP Practice or via the electronic referral system EyeV
 - Patients registered with a GP Practice in Durham requiring referral for cataract surgery must be seen in the cataract pre-operative assessment scheme. If you do not provide this service, you can refer the patient into the cataract pre-operative assessment scheme.
 - Within the Tees Valley area, the TARS cataract service manages patients who require cataract surgery.
3. The optometrist will refer the patient for the second eye under the arrangements for question 2.
4. The process is the same as the cataract pathways and is via the referral route outlined above.
5. Patient choice is offered by the patient's Optician and by the patient's GP. As outlined above in Tees this is done by the Choice Office.
6. Please find post cataract service details:
- a. Tees Valley and County Durham have a post cataract services. Primary Eyecare Services.
 - b. All other places within the ICB do not have a post cataract service in place. Post operative care sits with the surgical if a follow up is required.
 - c. Patient will be referred to the commissioned Primary Eyecare Service

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