

Our Reference      North East and North Cumbria ICB\  
FOI ICB 24-495

**NECS – John Snow House**  
Durham University Science Park  
Durham  
DH1 3YG

Tel: 0191 301 1300  
E-mail: [necsu.icbfoi@nhs.net](mailto:necsu.icbfoi@nhs.net)

By Email

3 April 2025

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 18 March 2025 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**

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following:

1. Please provide the names of all independent Sector Providers (ISPs) that have an NHS Standard Contract with your ICB for the provision of any Ophthalmology Services, to include but not limited to the delivery of Cataract Surgery for
  - a. the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 and
  - b. the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

Independent Sector Providers (ISP) include but are not limited to Anglia Community Eye Service (ACES), Community Health & Eyecare (CHEC), Newmedica, Optegra and Spamedica.

2. Please provide the total value in GBP (£) of the Indicative Activity Plan of each ISP covered in number 1 of this request for each and all Ophthalmology related services for
  - a. the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 and
  - b. the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

In addition to all Ophthalmology related services, please confirm the values attributable within the IAP to cataract outpatient and cataract surgical care The Indicative Activity Plan (IAP) is covered under Schedule 2 of the Standard Contract.

3. Please provide the total value in GBP (£) paid by the ICB to ISPs for Ophthalmology related activity performed under the Contract for
  - a. the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 and,
  - b. the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

Furthermore, please specify the value attributable within this total Ophthalmology spend that related to cataract outpatient and cataract surgical care.

Should you be unable to provide the data requested for the full time period of 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025, please provide the data from 1st April 2024 to 28th December 2024.

## Our Response

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

1. Independent Sector Providers (ISPs) that have an NHS Standard Contract with your' ICB for the provision of any Ophthalmology Services are:

Anglia Community Eye Service (ACES)  
 Community Health & Eyecare (CHEC)  
 Circle Group  
 Newmedica  
 Nuffield  
 Optegra  
 Spamedica

2. Total value in GBP (£) of the Indicative Activity Plan

| Independent Sector Provider         | 2023/24 Indicative Activity Plan | 2024/25 Indicative Activity Plan |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Anglia Community Eye Service (ACES) | £0.00                            | £569,000.00                      |
| Community Health & Eyecare (CHEC)   | £0.00                            | £3,292,329.00                    |
| Circle Group                        | £1,486,468.00                    | £1,204,326.00                    |
| Newmedica                           | £7,318,873.00                    | £12,259,184.00                   |
| Nuffield                            | £1,844,617.00                    | £2,022,510.00                    |
| Optegra                             | £0.00                            | £4,186,536.00                    |
| Spamedica                           | £13,817,201.00                   | £15,556,711.26                   |

3. Total value in GBP (£) paid by the ICB:

| Independent Sector Provider         | 2023/24 Actual | 2024/25 Actual YTD |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Anglia Community Eye Service (ACES) | £7,142.00      | £132,792.52        |
| Community Health & Eyecare (CHEC)   | £3,319,890.00  | £2,178,320.22      |

|              |                |                |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| Circle Group | £1,148,287.00  | £1,061,749.70  |
| Newmedica    | £11,097,422.00 | £10,224,132.11 |
| Nuffield     | £1,892,086.00  | £1,841,926.86  |
| Optegra      | £4,161,566.55  | £2,615,189.78  |
| Spamedica    | £15,512,310.00 | £17,811,625.65 |

The 2024/25 YTD actuals are based up to M10 (January 2025) and are subject to change before year end.

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](http://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](http://www.legislation.gov.uk) . This will not affect your initial information request.

Yours sincerely

*S Davies*

**S Davies**  
**Information Governance Officer**