



North East and North Cumbria

Our Reference PA\ North East & North
Cumbria ICB\ICB123

Your Reference ICB123

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24 November 2022

By Email

Dear

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request for Information – NHS North East & North Cumbria Integrated Care Board.

Thank you for your request received by North of England Commissioning Support (NECS) on 07 November 2022 for information held by NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB) under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

For information Clinical Commissioning Groups ceased to exist on 30 June 2022. Services that were previously delivered by the CCG are now being delivered by the successor organisation NHS North East and North Cumbria (ICB). This covers the areas of County Durham, Newcastle Gateshead, North Cumbria, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland and Tees Valley.

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

Request

I would like to make a freedom of information request and would be grateful if you could respond by email and I look forward to receiving a response.

The information is relating to ophthalmology services and specifically around the provision of cataract pathways and providers. This information may be available from the ICB planned care team / ophthalmology leads.

Questions:

1. **Could you please describe the cataract referral process from a community optometrist through to a cataract surgery provider.**
2. **Could you please describe how these referrals are sent / received: eg post, email, ERS, e-ERS**
3. **Within the process, if there is an intermediary such as a referral support service / management service / single point of access, could you please describe this and provide a contact email address for this service.**
4. **List the current cataract surgery providers and the address they operate from within the area**

Response

County Durham and Tees Valley

1. *Referrals are submitted via the patient's GP practice.*
2. *Referrals are submitted via eRS*
3. *Not applicable*
4. *County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust, SpaMedica, Optegra, Newmedica, BMI Woodlands and Nuffield Health. Operational addresses are not held by the ICB but will be held by the providers.*

Newcastle Gateshead, North Tyneside, Northumberland and South Tyneside

1. *Referrals are submitted via the patient's GP practice.*
2. *Referrals are submitted via eRS*
3. *Not applicable*
4. *Newcastle Hospitals Foundation Trust, South Tyneside and Sunderland Foundation Trust, County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust, SpaMedica, Optegra, Newmedica, BMI Woodlands. Operational addresses are not held by the ICB but will be held by the providers.*

North Cumbria

1. *Optometrists can refer directly or via GP to cataract providers.*
2. *Referrals via ERS*
3. *No intermediate service*
4. *North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust – Carlisle and Whitehaven. Patients can also choose to be referred to out of county providers on contract to NHS and IS providers under NHS standard contracts.*

Currently no IS contracted sites in North Cumbria. Nearest IS provider site is Kendal operated by Spamedica.

Operational addresses are not held by the ICB but will be held by the providers.

Sunderland

1. *The ICB in Sunderland does not have a specific cataract referral process. All referrals are made via ERS via the patients GP Practice*
2. *Referrals are submitted via eRS*
3. *Not applicable*
4. *Newcastle Hospitals Foundation Trust, South Tyneside and Sunderland Foundation Trust, County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust, SpaMedica. Operational addresses are not held by the ICB but will be held by the providers.*

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.gov.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

Paul Atkinson

Paul Atkinson
Information Governance Officer