



# North East and North Cumbria

Our Reference North East & North Cumbria  
ICB\332

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18/05/2023

Applicant  
By Email

Dear Applicant,

**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 19/04/2023 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**

**1. For the ICB and its predecessor CCGs, could you please provide the following information regarding cataract operations:**

	2021-22	2022-23
<b>Total Expenditure on Cataract Operations</b>		
<b>Expenditure with independent non-NHS providers</b>		

<b>Expenditure on NHS Providers</b>		
<b>Activity carried out by independent non-NHS providers</b>		
<b>Activity carried out by NHS providers</b>		

2. Could I also ask the ICBs that were not able to provide data to our previous request

(Columns D and R in the dataset, where 1 indicates a partial data and 0 indicates no data) revisit this request, and provide the above data for the years 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21.

3. A paragraph or two summary of information the ICB holds on:

- A) How pandemic pressures impacted spend on cataract surgeries or activity
- B) How COVID block-funding affected spend on cataract surgeries or activity
- C) Any local factors which were particularly important to the spend on cataract surgeries or activity

Response

1.

	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
<b>Total Expenditure on Cataract Operations</b>	£26,309,420	£37,290,431
<b>Expenditure with independent non-NHS providers</b>	£10,493,830	£21,377,149
<b>Expenditure on NHS Providers</b>	£15,815,589	£15,913,282
<b>Activity carried out by independent non-NHS providers</b>	13,490	27,014
<b>Activity carried out by NHS providers</b>	23,001	21,445

2. *Provided in previous requests.*

3.

- a. *As with all other services, spend on cataracts during the pandemic reduced due to the restrictions on activity. This has seen a significant bounce back in the past financial year largely driven by a number of new independent sector providers establishing premises within the ICB.*
- b. *Reductions in cataract activity during covid were driven by the inability of services to admit patients in the volume they have previously been used to. The block contract funding arrangements had no influence on activity levels.*

- c. *Newcastle Hospitals have established a cataract treatment centre whilst there has been a growth in the number of independent sector providers within the ICB which has had an impact on activity and spend.*

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

Yours sincerely

*Ehren Smith*

**Information Governance Officer**