

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 24–149

NECS – John Snow House
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By Email

1 August 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 8 July 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

We are undertaking research into the way in which NHS ophthalmology care, in particular cataract surgery is commissioned by Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) from the independent sector.

We are seeking to understand the extent to which services are commissioned from the independent sector through direct contracts with ICBs or whether they are provided on a non-contract activity basis.

We are also seeking to understand whether optometrists are permitted to make direct referrals to NHS providers (both in the NHS and the independent sector) and if so when this approach was introduced.

As a result, I am asking you to provide the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

1. For each of the financial years (1 April to 31 March) 2021/22; 2022/23; 2023/24 please provide the names of any independent sector providers that had a **contract** for Ophthalmology services with the ICB.

2. For each of the above companies which had a **contract** with the ICB and for each of the **financial years** stated above in Question 1 please provide the number of **cataract operations** provided by each company under the contract.

In providing your response to Question 1 and 2 please complete the following table:

Financial Years	Contracted Company	Number of cataract operations
2021/22		
2022/23		
2023/24		

3. For each of the financial years (1 April to 31 March) 2021/22; 2022/23; 2023/24 please provide the names of any independent sector providers that undertook **Non-Contract Activity** for Ophthalmology services with the ICB.
4. For each of the above **companies** which undertook **Non-Contract Activity** with the ICB and for each of the **financial years** stated above in Question 2 please provide the number of **cataract operations** provided by each company on a **Non-contract Activity basis**.

In providing your response to Question 3 and 4 please complete the following table:

Financial Years	Company that undertook Non-Contract Activity	Number of cataract operations undertaken on a Non-Contract Activity basis
2021/22		
2022/23		
2023/24		

5. Please can the ICB confirm **whether** it permits optometrists operating out of high street optical businesses to make referrals to any provider of NHS cataract care (NHS or independent sector) and please provide information on **when (date)** this policy was introduced.

Our Response

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

Please find responses to questions 1 and 2 below:

Financial Years	Contracted Company	Number of cataract operations
2021/22	ACG - New Medical Systems Ltd	1,614
2021/22	ACG24 - Newmedica - Teesside - North Ormesby	4,114
2021/22	E4K5T - Optegra Eye Hospital Newcastle	427
2021/22	NAH01 - Matrix Health Services UK Ltd HQ	1,492
2021/22	NPG22 - SpaMedica - Stockton-on-Tees	2,728
2021/22	NT237 - Nuffield Health - Tees Hospital	1,080

2021/22	NT457 - Circle Health Group Ltd - Woodlands Hospital	1,150
2021/22	R1G7E - SpaMedica - Kendal	992
2021/22	Z9Z1G - SpaMedica - Gateshead	584

2022/23	ACG24 - Newmedica - Teesside - North Ormesby	4,736
2022/23	E4K5T - Optegra Eye Hospital Newcastle	3,401
2022/23	NAH01 - Matrix Health Services UK Ltd HQ	510
2022/23	NPG22 - SpaMedica - Stockton-on-Tees	4,089
2022/23	NT237 - Nuffield Health - Tees Hospital	1,902
2022/23	NT457 - Circle Health Group Ltd - Woodlands Hospital	1,503
2022/23	R1G7E - SpaMedica - Kendal	2,951
2022/23	R7W2O - Newmedica - Newcastle	2,186
2022/23	T040 - Community Health & Eyecare Limited	609
2022/23	X5B1U - Community Health & Eyecare Limited - Newcastle	442
2022/23	Z9Z1G - SpaMedica - Gateshead	5,222

2023/24	ACG24 - Newmedica - Teesside - North Ormesby	4,543
2023/24	E1U4T - SpaMedica - Carlisle	756
2023/24	E4K5T - Optegra Eye Hospital Newcastle	4,230
2023/24	G5X2Q - SpaMedica - North Tyneside	734
2023/24	I7G8X - Anglia Community Eye Service Ltd - Newcastle	3
2023/24	L3M9Z - Community Health & Eyecare Limited - Newcastle	1,741
2023/24	NAH01 - Matrix Health Services UK Ltd HQ	1,660
2023/24	NPG22 - SpaMedica - Stockton-on-Tees	2,968
2023/24	NT237 - Nuffield Health - Tees Hospital	1,608
2023/24	NT457 - Circle Health Group Ltd - Woodlands Hospital	1,130
2023/24	R1G7E - SpaMedica - Kendal	3,019
2023/24	R7W2O - Newmedica - Newcastle	4,783
2023/24	X5B1U - Community Health & Eyecare Limited - Newcastle	901
2023/24	Z9Z1G - SpaMedica - Gateshead	5,864

Please find responses to questions 3 and 4 below:

Financial Years	Contracted Company	Number of cataract operations
2021/22	ACG19 - Newmedica Community Ophthalmology - Leeds	1
2021/22	NNH04 - Optegra Eye Hospital Manchester	2
2021/22	NPG01 - SpaMedica - Manchester	3
2021/22	NPG02 - SpaMedica - Wirral	2
2021/22	NPG06 - SpaMedica - Liverpool	2
2021/22	NPG10 - SpaMedica - Sheffield	2
2021/22	NPG12 - SpaMedica - Eccleshill Treatment Centre	2
2021/22	NPG18 - SpaMedica - Hull	1
2021/22	NPG19 - SpaMedica - Bedford	1
2021/22	NPG08 - SpaMedica - Bolton	4

2021/22	NPG13 - SpaMedica - Skelmersdale	5
2021/22	NPG17 - SpaMedica - Preston	380

2022/23	A0C5S - SpaMedica - Gloucester	1
2022/23	ACG19 - Newmedica Community Ophthalmology - Leeds	1
2022/23	M0N7E - SpaMedica - Sittingbourne	1
2022/23	M5E1S - SpaMedica - Exeter	1
2022/23	M7C9Q - SpaMedica - Epsom	1
2022/23	NPG01 - SpaMedica - Manchester	4
2022/23	NPG02 - SpaMedica - Wirral	2
2022/23	NPG07 - SpaMedica - Eye Hospital (Wakefield)	3
2022/23	NPG12 - SpaMedica - Eccleshill Treatment Centre	5
2022/23	NPG15 - SpaMedica - Newcastle-Under-Lyme	1
2022/23	NPG19 - SpaMedica - Bedford	1
2022/23	NVC23 - Ramsay Healthcare UK Operations Limited - Woodland Hospital	1
2022/23	NPG08 - SpaMedica - Bolton	2
2022/23	NPG13 - SpaMedica - Skelmersdale	2
2022/23	NPG17 - SpaMedica - Preston	121
2022/23	O1P6X - SpaMedica - Oldham	2
2022/23	P0C3F - SpaMedica - Leeds	6
2022/23	S6Z6X - Community Health & Eyecare Limited - Preston	3
2022/23	T8V3L - SpaMedica - Doncaster	1

2022/23	AAV - Community Health And Eyecare Limited	1
2022/23	ACG19 - Newmedica Community Ophthalmology - Leeds	2
2022/23	B9J4U - SpaMedica - Peterborough	1
2022/23	C3Y0A - SpaMedica - Blackpool	7
2022/23	G3E7R - Optegra Eye Hospital Maidstone	1
2022/23	G3O5P - SpaMedica - Newark	2
2022/23	J3J8Z - Newmedica - Oxfordshire	1
2022/23	M3R0W - SpaMedica - Norwich	2
2022/23	NNH02 - Optegra Eye Hospital Yorkshire	6
2022/23	NPG01 - SpaMedica - Manchester	5
2022/23	NPG02 - SpaMedica - Wirral	1
2022/23	NPG06 - SpaMedica - Liverpool	1
2022/23	NPG07 - SpaMedica - Eye Hospital (Wakefield)	2
2022/23	NPG11 - SpaMedica - Birmingham	2
2022/23	NPG16 - SpaMedica - Chelmsford	3
2022/23	NPG23 - SpaMedica - Derby	1
2023/24	NPG08 - SpaMedica - Bolton	3
2023/24	NPG13 - SpaMedica - Skelmersdale	1
2023/24	NPG17 - SpaMedica - Preston	80
2022/23	NVC20 - Ramsay Healthcare UK Operations Limited - The Yorkshire Clinic	1
2022/23	NX501 - Anglia Community Eye Service Ltd	1

2022/23	O1P6X - SpaMedica - Oldham	3
2022/23	P0C3F - SpaMedica - Leeds	2
2022/23	Z9G5F - Community Health & Eyecare Limited - Preston	1

Question 5 response: Across the ICB there are differing pathways, work is being undertaken to standardise these.

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