

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 24-029

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

Tel: 0191 301 1300
E-mail: necsu.icbfoi@nhs.net

By Email

13 May 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 15 April 2024 for information held by NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB) under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

NENC ICB covers the areas of County Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Cumbria, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland, and Tees Valley (which covers the 5 councils that make it up – Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees).

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

Your Request

Please could you provide me with the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for North and North East Cumbria ICB.

1. The number of outpatient ophthalmology (treatment function code 130) appointments for first attendance (WF01B) commissioned by the ICB from the following companies for the financial year 2022/23 and the amount paid by the ICB to these companies for delivering these outpatient appointments in 2022/23.
Spamedica
Newmedica
Optegra
Community Health Eye and Care Limited
Anglia Community Eye Services Limited.
2. The number of outpatient ophthalmology appointments for follow up attendance (WF01A) commissioned by the ICB from the following companies for the financial year 2022/23 and the amount paid by the ICB to these companies for delivering these outpatient appointments in 2022/23:

Spamedica
 Newmedica
 Optegra
 Community Health Eye and Care Limited
 Anglia Community Eye Services Limited.

The subcontracting of outpatient ophthalmology appointments

3. Any documents containing the arrangements which have been put in place by the ICB or its predecessor bodies with the companies listed above for the sub-contracting of the delivery of outpatient appointments to other providers, for example but not exclusively optical businesses or high street optometry providers.
4. Any data held by the ICB relating to the delivery of NHS outpatient ophthalmology appointments by companies which have been sub-contracted to do so by the companies listed above (for example the number of ophthalmology outpatient appointments commissioned from any of the companies above which have been subcontracted to other companies to carry out on their behalf).

I can confirm that I am interested in all appointments (including DNAs).

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. The number of outpatient ophthalmology (treatment function code 130) appointments for first attendance (WF01B), and amounts paid, are detailed in the table below.

Based on the data held, the following is the activity and prices for all provider sites that North East and North Cumbria ICB contract with. This does not include NCA data. Note – as per clarification we have provided all activity (Attendances, DNAs (Did not attend) and Cancellations by both provider and patient). As per contracting the Price is for Attendances only.

	Activity	Price
	Note this includes all activity i.e. Attendances, DNAs, Cancellations	Attendances only
Spamedica	12,080	£1,092,137
Newmedica	1,969	£287,083
Optegra	2,888	£82,933
Community Health Eye and Care Limited	1,437	£151,525
Anglia Community Eye Services Limited	0	£-

2. The number of outpatient ophthalmology appointments for follow up attendance (WF01A) commissioned by the ICB are detailed in the table below:

Based on the data held, the following is the activity and prices for all provider sites that North East and North Cumbria ICB contract with. This does not include NCA data. Note – as per clarification we have provided all activity (Attendances, DNAs (Did not attend) and Cancellations by both provider and patient). As per contracting the Price is for Attendances only.

	Activity	Price
	Note this includes all activity i.e. Attendances, DNAs, Cancellations	Attendances only
Spamedica	9,942	£567,188
Newmedica	2,049	£133,676
Optegra	2,017	£24,225
Community Health Eye and Care Limited	1,155	£61,685
Anglia Community Eye Services Limited	0	£-

3. Details of arrangements are noted below:

Spamedica – there is no sub contract arrangement outlined with the contract.

Newmedica – have within their ICB contract outlined they have a sub contract in place with Primary Eyecare Services for post op care.

Optegra – have within their ICB contract outlined they have a sub contract in place with Primary Eyecare Services for post op care.

Community Health Eye and Care Limited – there is no sub contract arrangement outlined with the contract.

Anglia Community Eye Services Limited. – there is no sub contract arrangement outlined with the contract.

4. On this occasion it is not possible to provide the requested information. In line with your rights under section 1(1)(a) of the Act to be informed whether information is held, we confirm the ICB does not hold any of the information requested.

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