

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 24–299

[NECS – John Snow House](#)
Durham University Science Park
Durham
DH1 3YG

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

By Email

26 November 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 25 October 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

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding General Ophthalmic Services (GOS) activity and Commissioned Enhanced Services (Optical) within North East and North Cumbria ICB.

NHS Sight tests

I would like to request the following data for the fiscal years 2022-23 and 2023-24:

1. **Total Number of NHS Sight Tests:** Please provide the total number of NHS sight tests conducted, along with the associated expenditure.
2. **Domiciliary Sight Tests:**
 - a. Number of domiciliary sight tests performed.
 - b. Percentage of total sight tests.
 - c. Associated expenditure for domiciliary tests.
3. **Geographical Distribution:** Please provide data on the geographical distribution of sight tests conducted within the ICB area.
4. **Patient Outcomes:** Any available data on patient outcomes related to General Ophthalmic Services (GOS) eg referrals to hospital eye services.

Commissioned Enhanced Services (Optical) eg MECS, CUES

For commissioned enhanced services, such as MECS (Minor Eye Conditions Service) and CUES (Community Minor and Urgent Eye Care), I would like the following:

1. Details of live commissioned services:
 - a. **Description:** Please provide a list of the services, including a brief description of each service and area covered.
 - b. **Contract Details:** Information on contracts related to these services, including renewal dates and contract value.
 - c. **Activity Data:** Activity information for past fiscal year and to date (preferably by quarter but can be annual figures if breakdown is too small). Please include number of episodes and revenue.

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.

NHS Sight Tests

We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB on this occasion is not able 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. However, we have determined that the information is held by Primary Care Support England (PCSE) Ophthalmic Payments.

In accordance with our duty under s.16 of the FOIA to provide reasonable advice and assistance to an individual requesting information, the email address for PCSE Ophthalmic Payments is pcse.rtophthalmic@nhs.net

Commissioned Enhanced Services (Optical) eg MECS, CUES

- a. Primary Eyecare Services covers all areas/localities within the North East and North Cumbria ICB. These services are:

Child Health Eye Screening

- Post vision Screening
- Post vision Screening – 6-week review
- Post vision Screening – 18-week review

Glaucoma Repeat Readings

- Glaucoma Repeat Reading – First Repeat
- Glaucoma Repeat Reading – Second Repeat
- Glaucoma Repeat Reading – First Repeat (Px referred from non-participating practice)
- Glaucoma Repeat Reading – Second Repeat (Px referred from non-participating practice)
- Glaucoma Repeat Reading – Repeat Fields (with first IOP)
- Glaucoma Repeat Reading – Repeat Fields (without first IOP)

Minor Eye Condition Assessment and Treatment

Ophthalmology

- Ophthalmology – Ocular Hypertension
- Ophthalmology – Ocular Hypertension Repeat Reading

Community Based Service (CBS) – Cataracts

- Post Op Cataract Referral
- Pre-Op Cataract Referral

Patient With Learning Disabilities

- Ophthalmology – Patients with Learning Disabilities

Cataract Enhanced Referral Service

- Cataract Enhanced Referral Service
- Cataract Audit Data Service

Glaucoma Enhanced Referral Service

- Glaucoma Enhanced Referral Service
- Glaucoma Enhanced Referral Service with OCT
- Glaucoma Monitoring Service and OHT
- Glaucoma Monitoring Service and OHT with OCT

b. Please see details below regarding the current contract status. Contract duration is 01/04/2024 to 31/03/2027.

- Pre-assessment cataract service – NHS Newcastle/ Gateshead/ North Tyneside/ Northumberland
- Glaucoma Enhanced Referral Service – NHS Newcastle/ Gateshead/ North Tyneside/ Northumberland
- Glaucoma Monitoring Service – NHS Newcastle/Gateshead/ North Tyneside/ Northumberland

c. Please refer to the attached spreadsheet for activity and cost data.

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