

Our Ref: PW/AKB/FOI-04-343

28<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Stafford Education & Enterprise Park  
Weston Road  
Stafford  
ST18 0BF

Sent by email

Telephone: 0300 123 1461

Dear

**FOI-04-343**

**Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000**

Thank you for your request for information received on the 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023. We can confirm that the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board can provide the following information.

Please see our responses in blue below:

**Request details**

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>	£9,942,390	£13,988,552
<b>Expenditure with independent non-NHS providers</b>	£6,638,482	£10,263,245
<b>Expenditure on NHS Providers</b>	£3,303,908	£3,725,307
<b>Activity carried out by independent non-NHS providers</b>	8918	12258
<b>Activity carried out by NHS providers</b>	4426	4306

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. Finally, we hoped to ask for information in the form of a summary of information (Section 11) held by the organisation.

Broadly speaking, the major confounding factor to analysing the balance of NHS vs Independent spend on eye-care is the pandemic, and the funding model that brought. While the national block funding policy may be consistent, how each Trust responded may be different and each will have many local factors at play. So, in light of the the figures requested above and the information provided previously, could we ask for:

4. 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

Pandemic pressures resulted in most elective care being stood down in accordance with national directions and guidance. Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent ICB (then Clinical Commissioning Groups) complied with the National funding throughout and with block funding arrangements with NHS providers. There are no notable local factors; owing to the diversity of providers across the system, the backlog of cataract patients recovered quickly.

### **Right of Appeal**

Should you require any further information or clarification regarding this response please do not hesitate to contact us. If you are dissatisfied with the response, you are entitled to request an internal review which should be formally requested in writing and must be within two calendar months from the date this response was issued.

### **To request an internal review**

You can request an internal review by contacting the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board FOI team by emailing the team at [StaffsStokeFOI@staffsstoke.icb.nhs.uk](mailto:StaffsStokeFOI@staffsstoke.icb.nhs.uk) or by post to the address at the top of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board's FOI complaints procedure.

The ICO 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)

Yours sincerely

**Paul Winter**  
**Associate Director of Corporate Governance**