



**Staffordshire and
Stoke-on-Trent**
Integrated Care Board

Our Ref: PW/AKB/FOI/0424/791

Stafford Education & Enterprise Park
Weston Road
Stafford
ST18 0BF

12th April 2024

Telephone: 0300 123 1461

Sent by email

Dear

FOI-0424-791

Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your request for information received on the 5th April 2024. We can confirm that the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board can provide the following information.

An anonymised copy of this response will be made publicly available on the ICB website.

Please see our responses in blue below:

We understand that, as of 2019/2020 around 11% of NHS funded Ophthalmic procedures are provided by three independent sector providers: Spamedica; Newmedica and Optegra. In addition, further procedures are provided by other smaller independent sector treatment centres such as the Independent Health Group, Practice Plus Group and Freedom Vision.

According to the Royal College of Ophthalmologists' blueprint for delivering cataract training in the independent sector "every independent sector provider delivering NHS-funded cataract surgery must be able to train NHS ophthalmic trainees on at least 11% of whole cases within 2 years in every region". This is also in line with the NHS England's 2022 cataract service specification.

Please could you provide the following information, made as a freedom of information request:

1. Confirmation of the names and contact information (address or email) of all private sector providers currently commissioned to provide NHS funded cataract operations in your region?

- Community Health and EyeCare Limited, Broughton Business Park, 1-6 Star Building, Oliver's Place, Fulwood, Preston, PR2 9WT
- SpaMedica Limited, 43 Churchgate, Bolton, Lancs, BL1 1HU
- Optegra UK Limited, 7 The Technology Park, Colindeep Lane, London, NW9 6BS

Chair: David Pearson MBE

Chief Executive Officer: Peter Axon

2. Summary of how the ICB is monitoring/intending to monitor whether the independent sector providers they commission are meeting this specification?

The ICB will monitor that providers are meeting the specification through required monthly / quarterly contract data reporting and contract review meetings.

3. Planned arrangements for providers found to be in breach of the contract specification to provide 11% of cataract operations as wholly delivered by NHS ophthalmic trainees within 2 years?

There is a Local Quality Requirement in the contract as below. There are no specific planning arrangements. Breaches would be dealt with under general conditions of contract management.

Quality Requirement	Threshold
<p>Equitable delivery of training to NHS trainees in all providers of NHS-funded cataract surgery</p> <p>The Provider must agree the number of trainees and cases needed with the Deanery (usually the Head of School or Training Programme Director).</p>	<p>A phased increase from minimum 4% in the first year to 11% whole cases by the end of year 2 (unless the Deanery advises this is not required in certain units)</p>

4. Number of NHS funded cataract procedures performed at each provider in England, divided into yearly information 2021, 2022, 2023?

Please see attached spreadsheet.

5. Number of NHS cataract procedures performed at each provider in England, wholly performed by an NHS ophthalmic trainee, divided into yearly information for 2021, 2022, 2023?

The ICB does not hold this information. The requester will need to request this from the providers.

6. Any formal comment from the ICB on the perception that independent sectors are not providing the agreed training and/or are detrimental to NHS trainees?

As the ICB have only been contracting with the three independent providers for a short period, we are not able to comment at this time.

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 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 ICB can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

www.ico.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Paul Winter
Associate Director of Corporate Governance