



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

Our Ref: PW/AKB/FOI-09-541

4th October 2023

Stafford Education & Enterprise Park
Weston Road
Stafford
ST18 0BF

Sent by email

Telephone: 0300 123 1461

Dear

FOI-09-541

Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your request for information received on the 19th September 2023. 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:

I am writing from the Centre for Health and the Public Interest (<https://chpi.org.uk/>), a charitable think-tank focused on health and social care. We wrote to you alongside all other ICBs in January with a request for information regarding the expenditure and activity data on cataract surgeries, and again in April to extend this dataset further.

Firstly, we'd like to thank you for the information provided to date. It has been very useful in quantifying the extent to which delivery of cataract surgeries has shifted from NHS Trusts into the independent sector, and further requests to NHS Trusts have explored the impact on their financial position.

To progress this research further, we would like to expand our analysis from the expenditure and activity on just cataract surgeries, to a wider bundle of Ophthalmology services and treatments to see how patterns of delivery in Cataracts map to other eye-care treatments such as for Glaucoma or Macular Degeneration.

Therefore, we would like to request spending and activity data on ophthalmology services broken down by different conditions/treatments. Note that breaking this down further into NHS spending/activity and Independent Sector spending/activity is not necessary for this request.

While we appreciate that such a precise breakdown of spending and activity across a broad range of treatment functions is complex, we hope it would be helpful in analysing and exporting the data to use the tariff codes in use by NHSE as a search and filtering criteria.

Chair: David Pearson MBE

Interim Chief Executive Officer: Peter Axon

By our understanding, 'Admitted patient care, elective and outpatient procedures' are covered by Healthcare Resource Group Code (HRG Codes) and the Ophthalmology Services fall under the codes beginning BZ***, in the 93 rows 121-213 of the "1 APC & OPROC" tab in the National Tariff Workbook 2022/23 (https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/22-23NT_AnnexA-National-tariff-workbook-Nov22-1.xlsx).

Furthermore, there is additional data on first and follow-up 'outpatient attendances' falling under the Treatment Function Codes '130 Ophthalmology Service' and for completion the "216 Paediatric Ophthalmology Service" on the "2 Outpatients" tab.

Although we do not have a firm understanding of the accounting and finance software in use by the ICB, we are hoping that an export of spending and activity broken down by HRG Code and Treatment Function Code would be possible, and not overly burdensome for the ICB. However, we do understand that systems and processes differ and the ICB may have its own internal categorisation which could provide a similar dataset.

We have requested annual data between 2017/18 to 2022/23, but understand that in some cases the merger of CCGs into the ICB makes some financial data difficult to recover. And where tariff income was replaced by COVID block funding we would ask that these figures be provided for the relevant years.

So overall, while we have requested what would be our ideal dataset, if gathering this data proves challenging or impossible then it seems likely there would be an alternative dataset which is more readily available to the ICB and would satisfy our research, so I'd be happy to discuss it.

With that context, could we please request the following:

1. Annual total ICB spending on Ophthalmology services, as defined above, for the years 2017/18 to 2022/2. This should preferably be broken down by HRG Code and Treatment Function Code.

Please see attached spreadsheet detailing information requested.

2. Annual ICB Commissioned Activity on Ophthalmology services, as defined above, for the years 2017/18 to 2022/23. This should preferably be broken down by HRG Code and Treatment Function Code.

Please see attached information provided.

3. Commissioning and procurement strategy Could you please provide a digest or summary of information, preferably with attached policy documents, which outline the ICB's current commissioning strategy with regard to Ophthalmology services.

- a) Here I would expect some ICBs to have conducted or inherited an assessment of the local demand for eye care treatments and strategies to meet this demand.
- b) In 'determining whether this information is held' I would just expect a brief conversation with the responsible officer in case anything came to mind (which it may not) rather than an exhaustive search of the organisation.

Please see attached Delivery Plan for Ophthalmology from the Planned Care, Cancer and Diagnostics Portfolio Strategy 2023-2028.

4. Independent Provider Information – for each of the five largest Independent Sector Providers, could you provide information for the most recent complete financial year 2022/23:

- a) Total Cataract Surgery Activity during the year
- b) Total Cataract Surgery payments during the year

Please see attached information provided.

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 ICO can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
www.ico.gov.uk



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

Yours sincerely

Paul Winter
Associate Director of Corporate Governance