

27/07/2026

NN-ICB/26-1633

Dear Requestor

Re: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your request for information, received on 28 May 2026, regarding ophthalmology services. We have processed your request in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Under the FOIA, public authorities like ours are required to respond to requests for information within 20 working days. In response to your request, I can confirm that we do hold the information requested. However, please note that some of the information you requested has been withheld. Under the FOIA, certain exemptions may apply to protect sensitive information.

Please find below our response to your request:

For the purposes of this request, please exclude primary care General Ophthalmic Services (GOS) routine sight testing and standard optometry services. However, please include commissioned community ophthalmology, ophthalmology, diagnostic, treatment, surgical and referral management services where applicable.

Please provide the following information for the most recent full financial year available (and preferably also for the current financial year where available).

1. Current commissioned providers

Please provide a list of all organisations currently commissioned to provide eye care services within the ICB area, including:

- NHS trusts
- Community providers
- Independent sector providers

For each provider, please include:

- Provider name
- Contract start date
- Contract end date

[Please see attached spreadsheet, duly populated.](#)

2. Services/pathways delivered

For each provider identified above, please specify:

- The services and/or pathways commissioned
- The subspecialty or pathway where applicable

Examples may include (but are not limited to):

- Cataract assessment/surgery
- Glaucoma monitoring/refinement
- Medical retina
- YAG laser
- Vitreoretinal services
- Oculoplastics
- Minor ophthalmic procedures
- Diagnostic imaging/OCT
- Virtual clinics

[Please see attached spreadsheet, duly populated.](#)

3. Activity volumes

For each provider, please provide:

- Total annual activity volume
- The percentage share of total eye care activity within the ICB that this represents

If percentage share is not already held, please provide the raw activity figures sufficient to calculate this.

[Please see response to Question 5.](#)

4. Contract values

For each provider, please provide:

- Annual contract value

If exact figures are considered commercially sensitive, please provide values in bands where possible.

[Please see response to Question 5.](#)

5. Percentage Share

For each provider, please provide:

- The percentage share of total eye care activity within the ICB that this represents

Section 43(2) - Commercial Interests

The ICB has considered the information requested in relation to provider specific annual contract values, activity volumes and percentage share of eye care activity. Whilst there is a strong public interest in transparency regarding the expenditure of public funds, disclosure of this information during an active

procurement process would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of both the ICB and organisations participating in, or intending to participate in, the procurement process.

In addition, disclosure of activity levels alongside financial information may enable commercially sensitive pricing information to be derived. This is particularly relevant where unit prices, locally agreed tariffs or provider specific commercial arrangements could be calculated through comparison with information already in the public domain, including information disclosed through previous Freedom of Information requests. This is commonly referred to as the "mosaic effect", whereby separate pieces of information can be combined to reveal commercially sensitive details.

The ICB is therefore unable to disclose this information as it is exempt under Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Section 43 of the Act states that:

- (1) Information is exempt information if it constitutes a trade secret.
- (2) Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).
- (3) The duty to confirm or deny does not arise if, or to the extent that, compliance with section 1(1)(a) would, or would be likely to, prejudice the interests mentioned in subsection (2).

Section 43 is a qualified exemption and is therefore subject to the public interest test. Whilst the ICB recognises the importance of openness and transparency, particularly in relation to the expenditure of public funds, consideration must also be given to protecting legitimate commercial interests and maintaining a fair and effective procurement process.

Public Interest Test

A public interest test has been undertaken in response to your request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Public interest factors in favour of disclosure

- Promoting transparency and accountability in relation to the expenditure of public funds.
- Providing greater understanding of the commissioning and procurement of NHS services.
- Enabling public scrutiny of contracts awarded by the ICB.
- Supporting openness and transparency in public sector procurement activities.

Public interest factors in favour of maintaining the exemption

- The procurement process is currently live, and disclosure of provider specific contract values, activity volumes and market share information would be likely to influence bidder behaviour and undermine fair competition.
- Disclosure would provide commercially valuable market intelligence to actual or potential competitors regarding provider activity levels, market position and pricing structures.
- Disclosure may prejudice the ability of the ICB to achieve best value for money through the procurement process and weaken its negotiating position.
- There is a strong public interest in ensuring that current and future suppliers are willing to engage openly with the ICB during procurement exercises without concern that commercially sensitive information will be disclosed to competitors.
- Disclosure could undermine the integrity of the ongoing procurement process and negatively impact competition, potentially resulting in reduced value for money for the public purse.

Conclusion

Having considered the competing public interest factors, the ICB has concluded that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure at this time. The release of provider specific annual contract values, activity volumes and percentage share of activity during a live procurement would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of both the ICB and the organisations concerned.

Accordingly, this information is withheld under Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

6. Procurement and commissioning intentions

Please provide:

- Details of any planned procurements, tenders or market engagement exercises relating to eye care services within the next 24 months

Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB is currently in a live procurement process for Community Ophthalmology Service via a Competitive Process under provider selection regime (PSR) regulations.

Please see original notice, here: [Community Ophthalmology Service on behalf of NHS NNICB - Find a Tender](#).

7. Any current review, transformation, or redesign programmes relating to ophthalmology or community eye care pathways.

The ICB is currently working with system partners to improve the effectiveness of ophthalmology pathways to more closely align these with Getting It Right First Time (GIRFT) principles, and to optimise patient outcomes. This work will support the future community eye care pathway delivery.

If you are unhappy with the way in which your request has been handled, NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) has an internal review procedure through which you can raise any concerns you might have. Further details of this procedure can be obtained by contacting Lucy Branson, Director of Corporate Governance and Assurance via lucy.branson@nhs.net or by writing to FOI Team at NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB, Sir John Robinson House, Sir John Robinson Way, Arnold, Daybrook, Nottingham NG5 6DA.

If you remain dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you can apply to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), who will consider whether the organisation has complied with its obligations under the Act and can require the organisation to remedy any problems. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB. You can find out more about how to do this, and about the Act in general, on the Information Commissioner's Office website at: <https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/>.

Complaints to the Information Commissioner's Office should be sent to:

FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution, Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Telephone 0303 123 1113 or report a concern via <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information (FOI) Officer on behalf of NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board nnicb-nn.foi@nhs.net

All information we have provided is subject to the provisions of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015. Accordingly, if the information has been made available for re-use under the [Open Government Licence](#) (OGL) a request to re-use is not required, but the license conditions must be met. You must not re-use any previously unreleased information without having the consent of NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board. Should you wish to re-use previously unreleased information then you must make your request in writing (email will suffice) to the FOI Lead via nnicb-nn.foi@nhs.net. All requests for re-use will be responded to within 20 working days of receipt.