



**Reference:** FOI.ICB-2324/031

**Subject:** Ophthalmology Spend and Activity

*I can confirm that the ICB **does hold the information requested**; please see responses below:*

QUESTION	RESPONSE
Please refer to requesters template enclosed.	

***The information provided in this response is accurate as of 9 May 2023 and has been approved for release by Sarah Truelove, Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer for NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB.***

We wrote to you in January with a request for information regarding the expenditure and activity data on cataract operations, and would firstly would like to thank you for your helpful response. We are writing today to follow up with another request, to bring this dataset up to date and cover off some outstanding questions.

To help explain what information we are seeking and to help coordinate responses between ICBs, and for your interest, you can view [the data we have gathered so far](#) from each ICB. We're really happy with the dataset that your organisations have built so far.

You will note that while we were able to gather a very comprehensive dataset for the first arm of our request (activity and expenditure on cataract operations) we could not get a statistically viable sample for the second arm of our request (the source of referrals, and whether they came from within the NHS ecosystem or independently). Some ICBs don't record this information, and where this data does exist the categorisation across ICBs isn't wholly consistent so we have opted to drop this element from our analysis.

In any case, we would like to update this dataset to gather more recent information, for 2021-22, and preferably also for 2022-23. I appreciate that the 2022-2023 data is very recent, but hope this would still be possible.

1. For the ICB and its predecessor CCGs, could you please provide the following information regarding cataract operations:

	2021-22	2022-23 (Apr-Feb)
Total Expenditure on Cataract Operations	<b>£5,194,722</b>	<b>£9,547,535</b>
Expenditure with independent non-NHS providers	<b>£3,341,236</b>	<b>£7,309,710</b>
Expenditure on NHS Providers	<b>£1,853,486</b>	<b>£2,237,825</b>
Activity carried out by independent non-NHS providers	<b>4403</b>	<b>9228</b>

Activity carried out by NHS providers	<b>2235</b>	<b>2652</b>
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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.

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:

3. A paragraph or two summary of information the ICB holds on:
- A) How pandemic pressures impacted spend on cataract surgeries or activity

**The number of outpatient appointments and surgeries was fewer as a result of the pandemic, infection prevention and control measures and increased staff absence through sickness.**

- B) How COVID block-funding affected spend on cataract surgeries or activity

**Block funding was able to provide financial stability and support the existing capacity and provide certainty of funding for providers where activity had reduced and under the previous PBR financial regime.**

- C) Any local factors which were particularly important to the spend on cataract surgeries or activity

**The number of surgeries increased in 2022/23 as providers recovered from the impact of the pandemic and a new provider entered the health economy in BNSSG increasing capacity and choice.**