

**Reference:** FOI.ICB-2324/097

**Subject:** Ophthalmology Contracts

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

QUESTION	RESPONSE
Please see requesters template.	

***The information provided in this response is accurate as of 4 July 2024 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.***

Dear Sir/Madam

We are undertaking research into the way in which NHS ophthalmology care, in particular cataract surgery is commissioned by Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) from the independent sector.

We are seeking to understand the extent to which services are commissioned from the independent sector through direct contracts with ICBs or whether they are provided on a non-contract activity basis.

We are also seeking to understand whether optometrists are permitted to make direct referrals to NHS providers (both in the NHS and the independent sector) and if so when this approach was introduced.

As a result, I am asking you to provide the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

1. For each of the financial years (1 April to March 31<sup>st</sup>) 2021/22; 2022/23; 2023/24 please provide the names of any independent sector providers that had a **contract** for Ophthalmology services with the ICB.

Circle  
NewMedica  
Nuffield  
PracticePlus  
SomersetSurgical  
SpaMedica  
Spire  
Sulis

2. For each of the above companies which had a **contract** with the ICB and for each of the **financial years** stated above in Question 1 please provide the number of **cataract operations** provided by each company under the contract.

In providing your response to Question 1 and 2 please complete the following table

Financial Years	Contracted Company	Number of cataract operations
	<b>NS = Number suppressed (&lt;10)</b>	
2021/2022	CIRCLE BATH HOSPITAL	NS
2022/2023	CIRCLE BATH HOSPITAL	0
2023/2024	CIRCLE BATH HOSPITAL	0
2021/2022	NEWMEDICA	0
2022/2023	NEWMEDICA	0
2023/2024	NEWMEDICA	0
2021/2022	NUFFIELD HEALTH	NS
2022/2023	NUFFIELD HEALTH	0
2023/2024	NUFFIELD HEALTH	0

2021/2022	PRACTICE PLUS GROUP HOSPITAL	823
2022/2023	PRACTICE PLUS GROUP HOSPITAL	1529
2023/2024	PRACTICE PLUS GROUP HOSPITAL	0
2021/2022	SOMERSET SURGICAL SERVICES HQ	393
2022/2023	SOMERSET SURGICAL SERVICES HQ	336
2023/2024	SOMERSET SURGICAL SERVICES HQ	616
2021/2022	SPAMEDICA BRISTOL	581
2022/2023	SPAMEDICA BRISTOL	2701
2023/2024	SPAMEDICA BRISTOL	2166
2021/2022	SPIRE BRISTOL HOSPITAL	32
2022/2023	SPIRE BRISTOL HOSPITAL	0
2023/2024	SPIRE BRISTOL HOSPITAL	0
2021/2022	SULIS HOSPITAL BATH	4
2022/2023	SULIS HOSPITAL BATH	13
2023/2024	SULIS HOSPITAL BATH	13

3. For each of the financial years (1 April to March 31st) 2021/22; 2022/23; 2022/24 please provide the names of any independent sector providers that undertook **Non Contract Activity** for Ophthalmology services with the ICB.

Bath Clinic  
Stourside Hospital  
Tetbury Hospital  
Optegra

4. For each of the above **companies** which undertook **Non-Contract Activity** with the ICB and for each of the **financial years** stated above in Question 2 please provide the number of **cataract operations** provided by each company on an **Non contract Activity basis**.

In providing your response to Question 2 and 3 please complete the following table:

Financial Years	Company that undertook Non-Contract Activity	Number of cataract operations undertaken on a Non Contract Activity basis
	<b>NS = Number suppressed (&lt;10)</b>	
2021/2022	Bath Clinic	NS
2022/2023	Bath Clinic	13
2023/2024	Bath Clinic	10
2021/2022	Stourside Hospital	NS

2022/2023	Stourside Hospital	0
2023/2024	Stourside Hospital	0
2021/2022	Tetbury Hospital	47
2022/2023	Tetbury Hospital	0
2023/2024	Tetbury Hospital	0
2021/2022	Optegra	0
2022/2023	Optegra	0
2023/2024	Optegra	0

5. Please can the ICB confirm **whether** it permits optometrists operating out of high street optical businesses to make referrals to any provider of NHS cataract care (NHS or independent sector) and please provide information on **when (date)** this policy was introduced.

No, the ICB does not permit optometrists to refer direct. All referrals must be made via the GP to ensure the patient is given time to consider their choice of provider in line with Patient Choice rules.