

**Reference:** FOI.ICB-2526/087

**Subject:** Optometry Enhanced Services

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

| QUESTION  | RESPONSE  |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. how much your ICB spent on optometry enhanced services in 2023/4 and 2024/5.</li> <li>2. The services covered by these enhanced services (e.g. Minor eye conditions, glaucoma enhanced case finding etc.)</li> <li>3. The prices paid for each type of activity.</li> <li>4. The volume of activity for each type of activity.</li> </ol> <p>According to the NHS Payment Scheme 2025/26 and the 2006 NHS Act these services fall under the rules for the NHS Payment Scheme and are therefore subject to local pricing rules.</p> <p>Under Section 2.2 paragraph 21 of the NHS Payment Scheme 'Where the payment for NHS services provided in a primary care setting is not determined by or in accordance with regulations or directions, or related instruments, made under the 2006 Act then the 2025/26 NHSPS rules on local payment arrangements apply (see Section 7). For instance, minor</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. See table below</li> <li>2. Below are the services that are presently being offered as part of the enhanced optometry services in BNSSG. The ICB is currently in the process of undertaking a commissioning review for these services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cataract Surgery follow up</li> <li>• Glaucoma Repeat Measures</li> <li>• Glaucoma monitoring service</li> <li>• Enhanced Imaging Referral Service</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. The ICB considers the information relating to specific prices per activity as commercially sensitive and has therefore applied Section 43(2) to this information.</li> </ol> <p>Section 43(2) exempts from the disclosure information which would, or would likely to prejudice the commercial interests of an organisation. The ICB therefore considers the information request regarding the price paid per activity as commercially sensitive</p> |

surgical procedures performed by GPs and commissioned by ICBs would be subject to local payment arrangements'.

Under Section 6, rule 3(d) of the NHS Payment Scheme: 'The commissioner must maintain and publish a written statement of the agreement, using the [template and guidance](#) provided by NHS England, within 30 days of the relevant contract being signed, or in the case of an agreement during the term of an existing contract, the date of the agreement.'

Section 43(2) is a qualified exemption and therefore the public interest test has been set out below.

The public interest arguments in favour of disclosing the information include the ICB's responsibility to be transparent and accountable in its decision making. The ICB has a responsibility to demonstrate that local prices represent good value money.

The public interest arguments in favour of maintaining the exemption include disclosure of the information would be detrimental to primary care budgets or future service considerations. The ICB has also considered that although funded through the NHS, the community optometry practices are private competitive businesses and consider information regarding their finances to be confidential information. The ICB recognises that the community optometry practices expect their financial information to be treated as confidential and therefore disclosure of the information may damage relationships between the ICB and the community optometry practices.

The ICB believes that the public interest lies in maintaining the exemption as it is in the public interest for the ICB to be able to commission competitive services at a good value to ensure that primary care optometry services are available. Preserving good relationships with the community optometry practices enables the ICB to continue to deliver valuable and cost effective services to patients. If these services were not delivered through primary care, there would be an activity increase across other local healthcare

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|---|--|---------------|---------------|
| services which would impact the ability for other community and acute services to be delivered. |  |               |               |
| 4   |  |               |               |
|   |  | 23/24         | 24/25         |
| <b>Nr.1</b>   |  |               |               |
| Full Year Spend   |  | 24439         | 27754         |
| <b>Nr.4</b>   |  | <b>Volume</b> | <b>Volume</b> |
| Glaucoma Repeat/Monitoring  |  | 103           | 83            |
| Cataract Follow-up  |  | 322           | 522           |
| Enhanced Imaging Referral   |  | 0             | 293           |

*The information provided in this response is accurate as of 24 July 2025 and has been approved for release by David Jarrett, Chief Delivery Officer for NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB.*