

Reference: FOI.ICB-2627/017

Subject: Audits of Invoices Submitted by Private Sector Ophthalmology Providers

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

QUESTION	RESPONSE
I am requesting information for the past three financial years, not calendar years: 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25. Please provide the information in an Excel or CSV format in tabular form, broken down by financial year Please provide the following information:	
1. Please state the name of the company/organisation that conducts audits if this is not done by the ICB	The ICB does not use a separate company / organisation to conduct these audits, as invoices are not formally audited. However, the ICB checks all Independent Sector invoices against data to ensure they reconcile. The ICB also runs check to the data each month as part of the flex & freeze process to ensure correct tariffs are used.
2. How many audits of private sector ophthalmology invoices were conducted in each year?	All private sector invoices are checked in-house
3. For each audit, how many invoices were reviewed, or what proportion of total invoices were audited?	All private sector invoices are checked in-house
4. Were audits conducted on all invoices or a sample only?	All private sector invoices are checked in-house

5. For each audit, which of the following aspects of the invoices were checked: • Verification of clinical coding • Review of supporting clinical documentation • Verification that billed procedures match contracted activity • Financial accuracy only	Verification of clinical coding, that billed procedures match contracted activity and overall financial accuracy.
6. For each audit, how many invoices resulted in adjustments or queries due to errors detected?	The ICB does not collect this information by speciality, as providers invoice us for more types of activity than ophthalmology.

The information provided in this response is accurate as of 1 June 2026 and has been approved for release by Cath Leech, Chief Finance and Corporate Services Officer for NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB.