

Reference: FOI.ICB-2425/011

Subject: Independent Treatment Sector Centres and Cataract Surgery 2021-23

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

QUESTION	RESPONSE
<p>We understand that, as of 2019/2020 around 11% of NHS funded Ophthalmic procedures are provided by three independent sector providers: Spamedica; Newmedica and Optegra. In addition, further procedures are provided by other smaller independent sector treatment centres such as the Independent Health Group, Practice Plus Group and Freedom Vision.</p> <p>According to the Royal College of Ophthalmologists’ blueprint for delivering cataract training in the independent sector “every independent sector provider delivering NHS-funded cataract surgery must be able to train NHS ophthalmic trainees on at least 11% of whole cases within 2 years in every region”. This is also in line with the NHS England’s 2022 cataract service specification.</p> <p>Please could you provide the following information, made as a freedom of information request:</p>	
<p>1. Confirmation of the names and contact information (address or email) of all private sector providers currently commissioned to provide NHS funded cataract operations in your region.</p>	<p>These independent sector providers are commissioned for cataracts procedures in BNSSG:</p> <p>Sulis Hospital Bath - https://www.sulishospital.com/enquiries Practice Plus Group - https://practiceplusgroup.com/contact/ Somerset Surgical Services - https://www.somersetsurgicalservices.co.uk/contact-us/ NewMedica - https://www.newmedica.co.uk/contact-us SpaMedica - https://www.spamedica.co.uk/contact/</p>
<p>2. Summary of how the ICB is monitoring/intending to monitor whether the independent sector providers they commission are meeting this specification.</p>	<p>BNSSG ICB reviews monthly reports and meets with the provider for contract review meetings every financial quarter.</p>

<p>3. Planned arrangements for providers found to be in breach of the contract specification to provide 11% of cataract operations as wholly delivered by NHS ophthalmic trainees within 2 years.</p> <p>Please provide the information for (3) and (4) in an anonymized summary of numbers of cases, ideally as an electronic spreadsheet.</p>	<p>BNSSG ICB does not hold this information.</p>
<p>4. Number of NHS funded cataract procedures performed at each provider in England, divided into yearly information 2021, 2022, 2023.</p> <p>Please provide the information for (3) and (4) in an anonymized summary of numbers of cases, ideally as an electronic spreadsheet.</p>	<p>The ICB does not hold this information. Please contact NHS England: https://www.england.nhs.uk/contact-us/foi/</p>
<p>5. Number of NHS cataract procedures performed at each provider in England, wholly performed by an NHS ophthalmic trainee, divided into yearly information for 2021, 2022, 2023.</p>	<p>BNSSG ICB does not hold this information.</p>
<p>6. Any formal comment from the ICB on the perception that independent sectors are not providing the agreed training and/or are detrimental to NHS trainees.</p>	<p>The ICB do not have a comment to make at this time.</p>

The information provided in this response is accurate as of 12 April 2024 and has been approved for release by David Jarrett, Chief Delivery Officer for NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB.