

Please contact: Access to Information  
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24 April 2024

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[www.lancashireandsouthcumbria.icb.nhs.uk](http://www.lancashireandsouthcumbria.icb.nhs.uk)

**Re: Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000**  
**Ref no: FOI-3953-LSC**

Thank you for your request dated 27 March 2024.

We can confirm that the ICB do not hold all the information required.

Please find our response to your questions below:

Q1	<p>Your Question:</p> <p><i>As part of our study into the impact of the outsourcing of ophthalmology services to the independent sector we are writing to all Integrated Care Boards - in this case Lancashire and South Cumbria ICB - asking them to provide us with the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.</i></p> <p>A copy of any assessment undertaken by the ICB – contained in the form of internal reports or presentations – of the impact on waiting times for patients seeking ophthalmology services as result of the use of the independent sector to deliver cataract surgery.</p> <p>Our Response:</p> <p><b>The ICB has not undertaken any assessment in relation to the impact on waiting times for patients seeking ophthalmology services in the independent sector delivering cataract surgery.</b></p>
Q2	<p>Your Question:</p> <p>A copy of any audit or assessment undertaken by the ICB– contained in the form of internal reports or presentations - of the electronic/digital/online system for the referral of patients from optometry practices to NHS Trusts or independent sector providers.</p> <p>Our Response:</p> <p><b>No audit or assessment has been undertaken in relation to this request.</b></p>
Q3	<p>Your Question:</p> <p>A copy of any letters or correspondence between the ICB and representatives of local optometry businesses – for example Local Optical Committees – regarding the referral of NHS funded patients to independent sector providers and NHS Trusts.</p> <p>Our Response:</p>

<b>There are no letters or correspondence between the ICB and local optometry businesses in relation to referrals of NHS patients to independent sector</b>
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### **Right of Appeal**

Should you require any further information or clarification regarding this response please do not hesitate to contact us. If you are dissatisfied with the response, you are entitled to request an internal review which should be formally requested in writing and must be within 40 working days from the date this response was issued.

### **To request an internal review**

You can request this by contacting the FOI team by email at [MLCSU.FOITeam@nhs.net](mailto:MLCSU.FOITeam@nhs.net) or by post to Leyland House, Lancashire Business Park, Leyland, PR26 6TR, specifying why you require a review.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the CCGs FOI complaints procedure. The ICO can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF  
[www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely

**On behalf of Kevin Lavery  
ICB Chief Executive**