

Please contact: Access to Information Team

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21 July 2022

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Dear

Due to the abolishment of clinical commissioning groups, from the 1 July 2022 the information you had previously requested from NHS Blackburn with Darwen CCG And NHS East Lancashire CCG is now held by the newly established Integrated Care Board for NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria.

**Re: Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000**  
**Ref no: FOI-2379-BWD and FOI-2379-EL**

Thank you for your request dated 23 June 2022.

We can confirm that the ICB does hold all of the information you requested.

Please find our response to your questions below:

1. The names of the CCGs you can provide data for. For each organisation please answer the following queries:

**Blackburn with Darwen (BWD) and East Lancashire (EL) areas**

2. In 2021/22 what number of cataract operations were:

- a. Contracted from NHS providers

**In 2021-22, NHS England operated a 'Command and Control' environment. There were not any contracts with NHS Providers. CCG's made block contract payments to cover all the services provided by NHS Providers. These payments were not itemised by service or plans formulated.**

**However, it has been recorded that 431 NHS operations were conducted for NHS Blackburn with Darwen CCG (BWD) and 1721 for NHS East Lancashire CCG (EL).**

- b. Contracted from non-NHS providers. Please list the providers. [Providers which the CCG had a signed contract with for services, this includes AQP contracts]

**The CCGs contracted with Spa Medica (Bolton/Skelmersdale/ Preston sites). For EL, there were 1,152 planned operations and 977 for BWD.**

- c. Non-contracted services. Please list the providers. [Providers that have no signed contract with the CCG but offer services based on a NHS contract elsewhere in England, commonly referred to as non-contracted activity (NCA) providers.]

**By definition, we do not have a contract with Non-Contact Providers. However, there were 183 procedures performed for EL and 30 for BWD. These were with Spa Medica, at sites outside the contract.**

3. In 2021/22 the amount the CCG (i) budgeted and (ii) actually spent on cataract operations that were:

- a. Contracted from NHS providers

**As stated in Question 1, the CCGs made block contract payments to NHS Providers that were not itemised for different services. We estimate, based on historic values, that the amount allocated to Cataract Operations were: £1,987,021 for EL and £577,751 for BWD.**

- b. Contracted from non-NHS providers. Please list the providers

**The actual spend on Cataracts for EL was £1,699,33 against plans of £881,55. For BWD, the actual spend was £1,505,895 against plans of £732,991. The providers used were BMI, Ramsey and Spa Medica.**

- c. NCA providers. Please list the providers.

**The spend was £18,431 for BWD and £141,952 for EL. As there is not a contract there was not a planned spend for this. The providers used were Practice Plus Group, Community Health and Eyecare Ltd, Optegra and Newmedica. Also Ramsey and Spa Medica sites that were not within the CCG.**

4. In 2021/22 the number of incidents reported following cataract operations that had been provided by
- contracted from NHS providers
  - contracted from non-NHS providers
  - NCA providers.

If possible please breakdown by provider name and/or by severity of incident, eg SIRC, post-op infection, permanent sight loss etc

**Under Section 40 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Information can be withheld if it relates to information which constitutes personal data.**

**The first condition is that the disclosure of the information to a member of the public otherwise than under this Act—**

- a) **Would contravene any of the data protection principles.**

**In this instance we believe that it would likely breach the first Data Protection Principle therefore we are not providing the requested information to prevent the possibility it could potentially identify an individual or of inadvertently identify any patients.**

## **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 two calendar months 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 Jubilee 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**