

Please contact: Access to Information Team

Email: [MLCSU.FOITeam@nhs.net](mailto:MLCSU.FOITeam@nhs.net)

Direct tel: 01782 872648

Chorley House  
Lancashire Business Park  
Centurion Way  
Leyland  
PR26 6TT

06 December 2023

Tel: 01772 214232  
[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-3643-LSC**

Thank you for your request dated 9 November 2023.

We can confirm that the ICB does the information you requested.

Please find our response to your questions below:

Q1	<p>Your Question:</p> <p>Are there AQP providers for audiology in your ICB area?</p> <hr/> <p>Our Response:</p> <p><b>Yes.</b></p>
Q2	<p>Your Question:</p> <p>Who are the providers?</p> <hr/> <p>Our Response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Beacon Medical Services Group</b></li> <li>• <b>Blackpool Teaching Hospitals Trust</b></li> <li>• <b>Complete Price Eyewear Limited T/A The Outside Clinic</b></li> <li>• <b>Scrivens</b></li> <li>• <b>Specsavers</b></li> </ul>
Q3	<p>Your Question:</p> <p>What is the length, value and end date of each of their contracts?</p> <hr/> <p>Our Response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Scrivens Limited – 01/01/2020 to 31/12/2022 plus 2 year extension period. Value based on cost per case</b></li> <li>• <b>Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust – 01/01/2020 to 31/12/2022 plus 2 year extension period. Value based on cost per case</b></li> <li>• <b>Specsavers – 01/01/2020 to 31/12/2022 plus 2 year extension period. Value based on cost per case</b></li> </ul>

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Q4	<p>Your Question:</p> <p>Is there a lead AQP provider?</p>
	<p>Our Response:</p> <p><b>No.</b></p>
Q5	<p>Your Question:</p> <p>What is the type of AQP agreement? What is the criteria for each agreement i.e. do over 55's go to audiology, or do the AQP work in partnership with audiology and how are patients divided between these providers?</p>
	<p>Our Response:</p> <p><b>The Audiology AQP service provides a comprehensive patient-centred Integrated Hearing Service for the provision of hearing aids for age related hearing loss (non-complex), in line with national guidance and local requirements for the registered population of the NHS commissioning organisation aged 50 years and over.</b></p>
Q6	<p>Your Question:</p> <p>What is the current length of the waiting list for audiology appointments?</p>
	<p>Our Response:</p> <p><b>We do not hold this information as the wait times are aggregated, please go directly to providers.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Beacon Medical Services Group-</b> <a href="https://www.beaconmedicalgroup.nhs.uk/making-an-foi-request/">https://www.beaconmedicalgroup.nhs.uk/making-an-foi-request/</a></li> <li>• <b>Blackpool Teaching Hospitals Trust-</b> <a href="https://www.bfwh.nhs.uk/our-services/information-governance/freedom-of-information-f-o-i/">https://www.bfwh.nhs.uk/our-services/information-governance/freedom-of-information-f-o-i/</a></li> <li>• <b>Specsavers-</b> <a href="https://www.specsavers.co.uk/legal/freedom-act-uk">https://www.specsavers.co.uk/legal/freedom-act-uk</a></li> </ul>
Q7	<p>Your Question:</p> <p>How many patients are currently on the waiting list for audiology services?</p>
	<p>Our Response:</p> <p><b>According to the DM01, there are currently 1,517 patients on the Audiology waiting list for Lancashire and South Cumbria.</b></p>
Q8	<p>Your Question:</p> <p>What is the average waiting time for people on the audiology waiting list?</p>

	Our Response: <b>Please refer to Q6.</b>
Q9	Your Question: Can patients self-refer to audiology? If so, how?
	Our Response: <b>No, not at the current time.</b>
Q10	Your Question: Who is the lead member of staff responsible for commissioning AQP audiology services? (Name and email address)
	Our Response: <b>Steve Flynn <a href="mailto:steve.flynn1@nhs.net">steve.flynn1@nhs.net</a> / Joanne Furlong <a href="mailto:joanne.furlong@nhs.net">joanne.furlong@nhs.net</a></b>

### **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**