

Ref: FOI/00375/CMICB
21 June 2023

Dear,

**Re: Freedom of Information Act 2000
Ophthalmology Services**

Thank you for your information request indicated in bold below, which has now been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 by NHS Cheshire & Merseyside Integrated Care Board (ICB). I can provide you with the following information and responses.

Please note from 01 July 2022, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) were disestablished, and their statutory functions and responsibilities inherited by NHS Cheshire and Merseyside ICB.

Your Request:

- 1) Which of your local trusts is delivering hydroxychloroquine retinal screening.**
- 1a) If private providers then please advise which providers.**
- 2) What is their waiting list period for this?**
- 3) How many patients have had their screening completed?**
- 4) How many patients in total require screening?**
- 5) How many screening clinics are performed weekly at the trusts / private providers, offering this. Please state trust name and the number of clinics.**
- 6) If private providers are used what are the agreed tariffs for each aspect of the screening.**
- 7) How many incidents / SIs have been recorded over the last 3 years relating to hydroxychloroquine screening (breakdown per year please)**
- 8) What is the current Glaucoma patient waiting list at each Trust and private provider you manage and contract.**

9) How many incidents, near misses or SIs have been recorded relating to glaucoma at each Trust or provider over the last 3 years (breakdown per year please)

10) Are all glaucoma patients risk stratified at each provider / trust. If so what method and categories are they using.

11) How many new glaucoma patients are waiting to be seen.

12) If private providers are used what are the agreed tariffs.

13) How many stable AMD patients are seen at each Trust for monitoring.

14) What is the waiting list at each provider for AMD patients that are stable.

15) How many incidents / SIs have been recorded over the last 3 years relating to AMD care at each Trust (breakdown per year please)

16) If private providers are used what are the agreed tariffs.

17) For all private providers used for ophthalmology can you declare which consultants / Doctors have a financial interest with them that also work for the NHS trusts.

Our Response:

Please find listed below the information held by each of the former CCG areas that now make up NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB in response to your questions regarding ophthalmology services:

Cheshire

1) East Cheshire NHS Trust / Mid Cheshire NHS Trust / Countess of Chester

1a) No private providers commissioned for hydroxychloroquine retinal screening

2 - 5) Information not held*.

6) N/A.

7) Nil.

8) Information not held*.

9) Nil.

10 – 11) Information not held*.

12) Primary Eyecare Services Ltd / Spa Medica. Section 43 exemption applied** in relation to tariffs.

13 - 14) Information not held*.

15) Nil.

16) Eyecare Medical Ltd. Section 43 exemption applied** in relation to tariffs.

17) Information not held*.

Halton

1) Warrington & Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust / - St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust.

1a) No private providers commissioned for hydroxychloroquine retinal screening.

2 - 5) Information not held*.

6) N/A.

7) Nil.

8) Information not held*.

9) Nil.

10 – 11) Information not held*.

12) Not applicable as no private providers commissioned.

13 - 14) Information not held*.

15) Nil.

16) Spa Medica commissioned to provide stable AMD services. Section 43 exemption applied** in relation to tariffs.

17) Information not held*.

Knowsley

1) Liverpool University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

1a) No private providers commissioned for hydroxychloroquine retinal screening.

2 - 5) Information not held*.

6) N/A.

7) Nil.

8) Information not held*.

9) Two.

10 – 11) Information not held*.

12) Spa Medica. Section 43 exemption applied** in relation to tariffs.

13 – 14) Information not held*.

15) One.

16) No private providers commissioned for stable AMD.

17) Information not held*.

Liverpool

1) Liverpool University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

1a) No private providers commissioned for hydroxychloroquine retinal screening.

2 - 5) Information not held*.

6) N/A.

7) Nil.

8) Information not held*.

9) Nil.

10 – 11) Information not held*.

12) Spa Medica. Section 43 exemption applied** in relation to tariffs.

13 – 14) Information not held*.

15) Nil.

16) No private providers commissioned for stable AMD.

17) Information not held*.

Sefton

1) Southport & Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust.

1a) No private providers commissioned for hydroxychloroquine retinal screening.

2 – 5) Information not held*.

6) N/A.

7) Nil.

8) Please note that Southport & Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust has been closed to new adult routine referrals for glaucoma since October 2020. Please find listed below the information held for follow-up patient waiting lists:

Glaucoma - Risk Stratification Report

The below report shows all Glaucoma patients currently on the Review List or have a future Outpatient appointment booked. Glaucoma patients have been identified via the following methods:

- Patient has 'Glaucoma' entered within the remarks field on the review list
- Patient has been Risk Stratified on CareFlow with a condition of Glaucoma
- Patient has a Glaucoma Alert documented on CareFlow

Risk Strat Rating	Appointment_Booked	Review_Not_Due	Review_Overdue	Total
High	20	103	90	213
Medium	33	283	282	598
Low	27	224	188	439
Discharge	0	0	1	1
No Risk Strat	45	248	247	540
Total	125	858	808	1791

Glaucoma overdue reviews waiting 25% above their review date

	Total
25%+	471
below 25%	337
Total	808

Please find listed below the information held on waiting lists for glaucoma patients with iSIGHT Ltd:

NHS Glaucoma: Waiting List Review: 13.02.2023

Treatment Waiting	0
Recall/Follow-up	99

9) Nil.

10) Information not held*.

11) As previously advised, Southport & Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust has been closed to new adult routine referrals since October 2020. Please find listed below the information held on waiting lists for new glaucoma referrals with iSIGHT Ltd:

NHS Glaucoma: Waiting List Review: 13.02.2023

Assessment Waiting (New Patient)	0
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12) National Tariff.

13) Southport and Ormskirk NHS Hospital Trust do not currently provide an AMD Service.

14) Data not held on whether patient are classed as Stable AMD. However, please find listed below the waiting list information for all AMD patients with iSIGHT Ltd:

NHS AMD Service	
Assessment Waiting (NP)	0
Treatment Waiting	0
Recall/Follow-up	25

15) Nil.

16) National Tariff.

17) Information not held*.

St Helens

1) St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust.

1a) Private providers of ophthalmology services are Fairfield, Primary Eyecare and Spa Medica. However, information not held on whether these providers specifically deliver hydroxychloroquine retinal screening.

2 - 5) Information not held*.

6) Information not held on any private provider tariffs for hydroxychloroquine retinal screening

7) Nil.

8) Information not held*.

9) Nil.

10 – 11) Information not held*.

12) Private providers of ophthalmology services are Fairfield, Primary Eyecare and Spa Medica. However, information not held on whether these providers specifically deliver glaucoma services or associated private provider tariffs for this.

13 - 14) Information not held*.

15) One Serious Incident reported in 2020/21. No Serious Incidents reported in 2021/22 and 2022/23.

16) Private providers of ophthalmology services are Fairfield, Primary Eyecare and Spa Medica. However, information not held on whether these providers specifically deliver stable AMD services or associated private provider tariffs for this.

17) Information not held*.

Warrington

1) Warrington & Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust / - St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust.

1a) No private providers commissioned for hydroxychloroquine retinal screening.

specifically deliver hydroxychloroquine retinal screening.

2 - 5) Information not held*.

6) N/A.

7) Nil.

8) Information not held*.

9) Nil.

- 10 – 11) Information not held*.
- 12) Not applicable as no private providers commissioned.
- 13 - 14) Information not held*.
- 15) Nil.
- 16) Spa Medica commissioned to provide stable AMD services. Section 43 exemption applied** in relation to tariffs.
- 17) Information not held*.

Wirral

- 1) Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (WUTH).
- 1a) No private providers commissioned for hydroxychloroquine retinal screening.
- 2 - 5) Information not held*.
- 6) N/A.
- 7) Nil.
- 8) Information not held*.
- 9) Please find listed below the data held on the number of Serious Incidents recorded relating to glaucoma at WUTH during the past three financial years:

Financial Year	Number of Sis recorded relating to Glaucoma
2020/21	2
2021/22	2
2022/23	1

- 10 – 11) Information not held*.
- 12) Not applicable as no private providers commissioned.
- 13 - 14) Information not held*.
- 15) Nil.
- 16) No private providers commissioned for stable AMD.
- 17) Information not held*.

*You may wish to redirect your request for this information to the commissioned providers of the ophthalmology services listed in your request, which are listed below for each former CCG area along with their contact details:

Cheshire

- *East Cheshire NHS Trust*
ecn-tr.foirequests@nhs.net
- *Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust*
foi.foi@mcht.nhs.uk
- *Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust*
foi.enquiries@coch.nhs.uk

Halton

- *Warrington & Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust*
WHH.FOI@nhs.net

Knowsley

- *Liverpool University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust*
FOIRequests@liverpoolft.nhs.uk
- *SpaMedica Ltd (for Glaucoma Service)*
<https://www.spamedica.co.uk/contact/>

Liverpool

- *Liverpool University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust*
FOIRequests@liverpoolft.nhs.uk
- *SpaMedica Ltd (for Glaucoma Service)*
<https://www.spamedica.co.uk/contact/>

Sefton

- *Southport & Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust*
soh-tr.foi@nhs.net
- *iSIGHT Ltd*
<https://www.isightclinics.com/contact>

St Helens

- *St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust*
foirequests@sthk.nhs.uk

Warrington

- *Warrington & Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust*
WHH.FOI@nhs.net

Wirral

- *Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust*
wih-tr.AccessstoInformationOffice@nhs.net
- *Wirral Community NHS Foundation Trust (for Glaucoma Service)*
wcnt.foi@nhs.net
- *Wirral Vision (for Glaucoma Service)*
WICCG.wirralvision@nhs.net

**NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB holds information on the agreed tariffs paid to independent (non-NHS) contracted providers of the ophthalmology services listed in your request. However, NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB considers that the release of the individual agreed tariff prices for these services paid to independent providers are exempt from release under Section 43: 'Trade Secrets and Prejudice to Commercial Interests' of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB considers that publication of these locally negotiated tariffs would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of the contracted independent providers and could affect their ability to participate effectively within an open market. Providing such commercially sensitive pricing structure information about an independent company is likely to provide considerable assistance and an unfair advantage to other independent competitors.

Should you require any further information or clarification regarding this response or do not feel that your request has been answered as you would expect, please contact us to discuss.

We also wish to take this opportunity to inform you that, where you are not satisfied with the response to your request for information, a formal complaints and internal review process is available.

This can be formally requested by emailing foi@cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk and must be done within a reasonable time period (3 calendar months) from the date this response was issued.

Where you remain dissatisfied with our review under the Freedom of Information Act or the Environmental Information Regulations, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) for a review of your appeal decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our complaints procedure. The ICO can be contacted at;

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
www.ico.gov.uk

Should you need any further clarification or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us quoting the above FOI reference.