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30th July 2020

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – DECISION NOTICE

Dear Requester

FOI Reference Number: 001853

I refer to your email of 16th July 2020 requesting information in respect of statistics relating to commissioned care for patients in ophthalmology and eye departments by the CCG in each of the last 5 financial years.

I can confirm on behalf of NHS Lincolnshire CCG and in accordance with S.1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) that we do hold some of the information that you have requested. A response to each element of your request is detailed below.

Established on 1 April 2020, the CCG is a newly formed public sector organisation, though we hold information pertaining to NHS Lincolnshire East, NHS Lincolnshire West, NHS South Lincolnshire and NHS South West Lincolnshire CCGs which date back to April 2013. Where appropriate for the request we have indicated below which of the above previous organisations the information relates to.

ORIGINAL REQUEST AND RESPONSE

REQUEST	RESPONSE												
<p>1. What was the annual budget for patients commissioned for care in ophthalmology and eye departments by the CCG in each of the last 5 financial years?</p>	<p>The figures below are the value of the CCG plans with the contracted providers. All spend irrespective of the Point of Delivery.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="834 1579 1145 2002"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="834 1579 967 1630">Year</th> <th data-bbox="967 1579 1145 1630">Spend</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="834 1630 967 1704">2015/16</td> <td data-bbox="967 1630 1145 1704">£ 16,431,867</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="834 1704 967 1778">2016/17</td> <td data-bbox="967 1704 1145 1778">£ 17,846,601</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="834 1778 967 1852">2017/18</td> <td data-bbox="967 1778 1145 1852">£ 18,172,180</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="834 1852 967 1926">2018/19</td> <td data-bbox="967 1852 1145 1926">£ 17,697,832</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="834 1926 967 2002">2019/20</td> <td data-bbox="967 1926 1145 2002">£ 18,465,247</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Spend	2015/16	£ 16,431,867	2016/17	£ 17,846,601	2017/18	£ 18,172,180	2018/19	£ 17,697,832	2019/20	£ 18,465,247
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<p>2. How many patients commissioned for care by the CCG were treated by ophthalmology and eye departments' outpatient clinics in each of the last 5 financial years?</p>	<table border="1" data-bbox="836 282 1326 685"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Patients</th> <th>Appts</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2015/16</td> <td>49,841</td> <td>120,887</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016/17</td> <td>48,748</td> <td>121,991</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2017/18</td> <td>48,489</td> <td>119,406</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018/19</td> <td>48,730</td> <td>123,249</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019/20</td> <td>48,476</td> <td>118,798</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Source: SUS, the above includes all appointments provided to Lincolnshire CCG patients both by contracted and non-contracted providers.</p>	Year	Patients	Appts	2015/16	49,841	120,887	2016/17	48,748	121,991	2017/18	48,489	119,406	2018/19	48,730	123,249	2019/20	48,476	118,798
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<p>3. How many patients who were commissioned for care by the CCG and treated ophthalmology and eye departments outpatient clinics were treated for complications arising from refractive surgery in each of the last 5 financial years?</p>	<p>Response for Q3, 4 and 5: For patients who have these complications that requires further treatment, we are unable to identify this activity. Since there is no diagnostic coding on an outpatient appointment and only a procedure code if a procedure was undertaken at the time of the appointment and if this was the case it wouldn't be possible to state the procedure was due to such a complication.</p>																		
<p>4. How many patients who commissioned for care by the CCG and treated by ophthalmology and eye departments outpatient clinics were treated for complications arising from contact lens wear in each of the last 5 financial years?</p>																			
<p>5. Of all the patients who were commissioned for care by the CCG and treated by ophthalmology and eye departments outpatient clinics, what percentage were treated for complications arising from contact lens wear in each of the last 5 financial years?</p>																			

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<p>6. How many of the patients commissioned for care by the CCG had cataract surgery in each of the last 5 financial years?</p>	<table border="1" data-bbox="826 280 1382 689"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Patients</th> <th>No of Ops</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2015/16</td> <td>6,997</td> <td>8,496</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016/17</td> <td>6,610</td> <td>8,115</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2017/18</td> <td>6,259</td> <td>7,372</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018/19</td> <td>6,544</td> <td>7,720</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019/20</td> <td>6,460</td> <td>7,626</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>A number of patients would occur in subsequent years as they have one eye done in the first year and the second in the subsequent year</i></p>	Year	Patients	No of Ops	2015/16	6,997	8,496	2016/17	6,610	8,115	2017/18	6,259	7,372	2018/19	6,544	7,720	2019/20	6,460	7,626
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<p>7. What were the average waiting times from point of referral to being listed for cataract surgery in each of the last 5 financial years?</p>	<p>The CCG does not have access to the date of the referral, from the provider data we only know when a patient was added to the list. Also waiting list information does not contain the planned procedure.</p>																		
<p>8. What were the average waiting times from point of referral to undergoing first eye cataract surgery in each of the last 5 financial years?</p>	<p>See response to Q7. We can provide the experienced wait from addition to list to treatment, given below.</p> <p>Table Q8 - Average Experienced wait from date on list to date of operation based on dates reported by the provider in SUS</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="826 1361 1318 1771"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Av Wait IP</th> <th>Av Wait OP</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2015/16</td> <td>9</td> <td>28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016/17</td> <td>12</td> <td>28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2017/18</td> <td>15</td> <td>40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018/19</td> <td>13</td> <td>43</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019/20</td> <td>10</td> <td>44</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>IP average is for the wait between decision to admit and date of procedure.</p> <p>OP average is the wait between request received date and date of procedure.</p>	Year	Av Wait IP	Av Wait OP	2015/16	9	28	2016/17	12	28	2017/18	15	40	2018/19	13	43	2019/20	10	44
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<p>9. How many patients are currently waiting to have cataract surgery?</p>	<p>The CCG does not hold the level of detail within waiting list data that identifies if and for what procedure a patient is waiting. Consequently, we can only provide the total number of patients from the Referral to Treatment national data set that are awaiting definitive treatment be it in an OP or IP setting.</p> <p>Table Q9 - Total patients waiting on the RTT for Ophthalmology - Reported in March of each financial year, All Providers</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="791 600 1102 1039"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>No Waiting</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2015/16</td> <td>3,898</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016/17</td> <td>4,548</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2017/18</td> <td>6,354</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018/19</td> <td>5,837</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019/20</td> <td>5,982</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	No Waiting	2015/16	3,898	2016/17	4,548	2017/18	6,354	2018/19	5,837	2019/20	5,982												
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<p>10. What number and percentage of patients that have a cataract procedure on their first eye go on to have a cataract procedure on their second eye within six months of the first in each of the last five financial years?</p>	<p>Table Q10 : Percentage of Patients having cataract surgery on the second eye within 6 Months, based on Year first eye surgery occurred and a Unilateral Code (Excludes any having first eye in 2014/15)</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="791 1227 1465 1630"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>First Eye</th> <th>2nd Eye</th> <th>%</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2015/16</td> <td>4,176</td> <td>1,552</td> <td>37.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016/17</td> <td>4,098</td> <td>1,332</td> <td>32.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2017/18</td> <td>3,670</td> <td>1,061</td> <td>28.9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018/19</td> <td>3,766</td> <td>1,154</td> <td>30.6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019/20</td> <td>3,518</td> <td>808</td> <td>23.0%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>NOTE : 2019/20 is low since we haven't yet got 6 months of data available for 2020/21</p> <p>NOTE : This is dependent upon the quality of laterality coding for Cataract Surgery</p>	Year	First Eye	2nd Eye	%	2015/16	4,176	1,552	37.2%	2016/17	4,098	1,332	32.5%	2017/18	3,670	1,061	28.9%	2018/19	3,766	1,154	30.6%	2019/20	3,518	808	23.0%
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<p>11. What number and percentage of patients that have a cataract procedure on their first eye go on to have a cataract procedure on their second eye within twelve months of the first in each of the last five financial years?</p>	<p>Table Q11 : Percentage of Patients having cataract surgery on the second eye within 12 Months, based on Year first eye surgery occurred and a Unilateral Code</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="616 349 1289 797"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>First Eye</th> <th>2nd Eye</th> <th>%</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2015/16</td> <td>4,176</td> <td>1,910</td> <td>45.7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016/17</td> <td>4,098</td> <td>1,937</td> <td>47.3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2017/18</td> <td>3,670</td> <td>1,574</td> <td>42.9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018/19</td> <td>3,766</td> <td>1,546</td> <td>41.1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019/20</td> <td>3,518</td> <td>908</td> <td>25.8%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	First Eye	2nd Eye	%	2015/16	4,176	1,910	45.7%	2016/17	4,098	1,937	47.3%	2017/18	3,670	1,574	42.9%	2018/19	3,766	1,546	41.1%	2019/20	3,518	908	25.8%						
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<p>12. What percentage of patients have a cataract procedure performed on each of their two eyes (bilateral procedure) on the same day during each of the last five financial years?</p>	<table border="1" data-bbox="616 875 1465 1314"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Unilateral - First Eye</th> <th>Bilateral</th> <th>Total</th> <th>%</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2015/16</td> <td>4,176</td> <td>65</td> <td>4,241</td> <td>1.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016/17</td> <td>4,098</td> <td>48</td> <td>4,146</td> <td>1.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2017/18</td> <td>3,670</td> <td>58</td> <td>3,728</td> <td>1.6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018/19</td> <td>3,766</td> <td>105</td> <td>3,871</td> <td>2.7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019/20</td> <td>3,518</td> <td>96</td> <td>3,614</td> <td>2.7%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Unilateral - First Eye	Bilateral	Total	%	2015/16	4,176	65	4,241	1.5%	2016/17	4,098	48	4,146	1.2%	2017/18	3,670	58	3,728	1.6%	2018/19	3,766	105	3,871	2.7%	2019/20	3,518	96	3,614	2.7%
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I hope that this answers your queries with the information we currently hold, but if I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Arden & GEM Greater East Midlands Commissioning Support Unit
 FOI TEAM, Room 18
 Scarsdale Hospital
 Chesterfield
 S41 7PF

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided the CCG.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: telephone 0303 123 1113,
email casework@ico.org.uk and <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/>

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Yours faithfully

June Emptage
Information Governance Officer

***On behalf of
NHS Lincolnshire CCG***