

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – VISUAL FIELDS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to NHS Lothian's Ophthalmology Service.

Question:

1. How many sites do you operate your ophthalmology service across?
2. How many of these sites provide a visual fields service?
3. How many staff are allocated to visual fields per session? (if this varies, please detail per session and site).
4. What bands are these staff and what are their job titles? Do they undertake other duties than visual fields?
5. How many visual fields tests are performed per day or per session?
6. Please provide the make, model and quantity of each device used?
7. Do you have a standard protocol (eg. 24-2 SITA Faster)? If yes, specify and estimate % of overall visual field activity who may have this protocol per week.
8. Are patients booked, walk-in, or a mix? (if mixed, estimate % of walk-ins).
9. Do you provide virtual diagnostic clinics including visual fields? If yes, how many sessions per week per site?
10. What are your planned session times at each site? Do you deviate from these, and if so, why?
11. On a typical week, do you have sufficient capacity for your visual fields demands? If no, I'd be grateful for a simple description of the problem and also if you have plans in place to address this?

Answer:

The completed questionnaire is enclosed.

I hope the information provided helps with your request.

If you are unhappy with our response to your request, you do have the right to request us to review it. Your request should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this letter, and we will reply within 20 working days of receipt. If our decision is unchanged following a review and you remain dissatisfied with this, you then have the right to make a formal complaint to the Scottish Information Commissioner within 6 months of receipt of our review response. You can do this by using the Scottish Information Commissioner's Office online appeals service at <https://www.foi.scot/appeal>. If you remain dissatisfied with the Commissioner's response you then have the option to appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law.

If you require a review of our decision to be carried out, please write to the reviewer at the address at the top of this letter. The review will be undertaken by a Reviewer who was not involved in the original decision-making process.

FOI responses (subject to redaction of personal information) may appear on NHS Lothian's Freedom of Information website at: <https://org.nhsllothian.scot/FOI>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director of Nursing Midwifery and AHPs
Cc: Chief Executive

Visual Fields FOI Questionnaire

Structured response form for ophthalmology visual field services

Response details

Trust Name	NHS Lothian
Date of Submission	22.5.26

Guidance notes

- Please complete all sections as accurately as possible.
- Where services vary across sites, provide separate entries for each site.
- Use percentage (%) values where requested.
- Add additional rows if required.

Questionnaire sections

1 How many sites do you operate your ophthalmology service across?

Site	Details / Response	Notes / Comments
Princess Alexandra Eye Pavilion	Ophthalmology inpatient and outpatient service	Includes short notice ARC requests
St John's Hospital, OPD 1	Daily ophthalmology outpatient service	
Royal Hospital for Children and Young People	Daily ophthalmology/orthoptic outpatient service provided in RHCYP outpatients	Includes referrals from A&E and RHCYP wards
Department of Clinical Neurosciences	Twice weekly Neuro-ophthalmology outpatient service (DCN nursing staff perform pre-operative fields out with these sessions)	Includes referrals from DCN wards

2 How many of these sites provide a visual fields service?

Site	Details / Response	Notes / Comments
Princess Alexandra Eye Pavilion	Open access visual field service for patients attending ophthalmology outpatient clinics by team of visual field technicians	Provision of Humphrey & low vision and neurological visual field service
St John's Hospital, OPD 1	Open access Visual Field Service for West Lothian patients attending ophthalmology outpatient clinics	Provision of Humphrey visual fields by nursing team
Royal Hospital for Children and Young People	Paediatric neurological visual fields for patients attending paediatric ophthalmology clinics (covering out patients & ward referrals)	Neurological fields on specialist equipment undertaken by registered Orthoptist or by trained visual field technician supporting clinic
Department of Clinical Neurosciences	Neurological visual fields for patients attending Consultant led Neuro-ophthalmology clinics (covering out patients & ward referrals)	Neurological fields on specialist equipment undertaken by registered Orthoptist

3 How many staff are allocated to Visual Fields per session? (If this varies, please detail per session and site)		
Site	Details / Response	Notes / Comments
Princess Alexandra Eye Pavilion	5-6 staff per session where predicted patient numbers are over 35. Usually 5 staff assigned to 5 fields rooms plus 1 staff member to provide focimetry support and maintain clinic flow. Clinic sessions with fewer patients allows for technicians to comply with mandatory staff training & admin tasks in support of the service.	5 visual field rooms in EOPD PAEP
St John's Hospital, OPD 1	2	2 visual field areas within larger room.
Royal Hospital for Children and Young People	1 or 2	Orthoptist and adhoc Band 3 visual field technician for large paediatric consultant clinics on Wednesdays & Thursdays
Department of Clinical Neurosciences	1	1 Orthoptist

4 What bands are these staff and what are their job titles? Do they undertake other duties than visual fields?		
Site	Details / Response	Notes / Comments
Princess Alexandra Eye Pavilion	B3 Visual Field Technician / Orthoptic Assistant staff with 1 B4 Visual Field Team Lead. Predominately visual fields on a variety of specialist equipment to support glaucoma, inherited retinal disease, neuro-ophthalmology, ARC & general ophthalmology clinics. Some technicians are also trained in measuring paediatric and adult visual acuity, iCare IOP measurement and focimetry. As part of the orthoptic assistant role, support orthoptic led pre-school vision screening programme.	
St John's Hospital, OPD 1	B3 Clinical Support Worker, B4 Ophthalmic Technical Support Worker and B5 Registered Nursing Staff. B6 Nurse Practitioners are also able to undertake visual fields test.	Staff undertake a full range of duties throughout the Ophthalmology clinic.
Royal Hospital for Children and Young People	B6 & B7 registered Orthoptic staff- neurological fields and specialist and advanced practice as part of registered role. Ad hoc Band 3 visual field technician to support Orthoptist for fields/eye pressures/visions & co-ordination of the large Paediatric Consultant clinics	Band 3 visual field technician support provided where PAEP visual field service has adequate staff cover.
Department of Clinical Neurosciences	B7 registered Orthoptic staff- neurological fields and specialist and advanced practice as part of registered role.	These clinics are also used to train B3 visual field technicians in neuro-ophthalmic fields
East Lothian Community Hospital	Registered nursing(B5-7) provide 24-2 Visual Field service for a fortnightly consultant ophthalmology general clinic	8 patients requiring fields per clinic- on the day requests as per consultant request

5 How many Visual Field tests are performed per day or per session? (Separate answers per site please)		
Site	Details / Response	Notes / Comments
Princess Alexandra Eye Pavilion	Patient numbers may vary per session from approx. 15-45. On average, 35 patients are tested per 3.5 hour session.	Glaucoma clinics have highest patient numbers with several clinicians working the same session.
St John's Hospital, OPD 1	More fields test are completed on a Monday and Thursday due to the consultant clinics running on these days. Approx 30 fields tests completed on a Monday with approx 20 completed on a Thursday. Approx 5-10 on other days.	
Royal Hospital for Children and Young People	Neurological visual fields will vary dependant on number of referrals from paediatric neurology and mix of patients within the consultant clinic running on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays- vary 1-3- per session	
Department of Clinical Neurosciences	Tuesday mornings- number of specialist visual fields averages 3 per session Thursday all day- number of specialist visual fields averages 6 per session	Visual fields in addition to orthoptic assessment/non-surgical treatments

6 Please provide the make, model, and quantity of each device used (include details per site if applicable)		
Site	Details / Response	Notes / Comments
Princess Alexandra Eye Pavilion	Zeiss-HFA3 Visual field analysers x 5 Haag-Streit-Octopus 900 visual field analyser x1 Tagaki-manual perimeter x 1	2x LOTT Zeiss HFA3 visual field analysers
St John's Hospital, OPD 1	Zeiss Humphrey Fields Analyzer 3	
Royal Hospital for Children and Young People	Haag Streit Octopus 900 x 1	
Department of Clinical Neurosciences	Haag Streit Octopus 900 x 1	

7 Do you use a standard protocol (e.g., 24-2 SITA Faster)? If yes, specify and estimate % of overall visual field activity who have this protocol per week.		
Site	Details / Response	Notes / Comments
Princess Alexandra Eye Pavilion	Yes-24-2 SITA Fast for approx. 85% patients. Clinicians may request other testing programmes e.g. 30-2 / Standard or may request Octopus field etc	'Faster' programme only run during covid 19 pandemic.
St John's Hospital, OPD 1	24-2 SITA Fast for approx 98% of patients unless requested otherwise by consultant.	
Royal Hospital for Children and Young People	Kinetic neurological Octopus field	100%
Department of Clinical Neurosciences	Kinetic neurological Octopus field	100%

8 Are patients booked, walk-in, or a mix? (If mixed, estimate % of walk-ins.)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Purely Prebooked Appointments <input type="checkbox"/> Purely Walk-in patients <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mixed model – please provide percentage details of each type below		
Site	Details / Response	Notes / Comments
Princess Alexandra Eye Pavilion	Mixed model- mainly open access (ie where medical staff request on day or pre-indicated on appointment system). Some pre-booked to ensure specialist equipment and trained staff available predominately for low vision genetic adult clinics and neurological fields as extensive additional training required to undertake neurological kinetic fields. Approx.10 patients per month have pre booked appointments from maximum of 16 bookable slots.	
St John's Hospital, OPD 1	Open access where medical staff request on day any patients on their clinic requiring fields or indicated on appointment system.	
Royal Hospital for Children and Young People	Open access where medical staff request on day any patients on their clinic requiring fields or indicated on appointment system or from ward requests.	
Department of Clinical Neurosciences	Open access where medical staff request on day any patients on their clinic requiring fields or indicated on appointment system, or from ward requests.	

9 Do you provide virtual diagnostic clinics including Visual Fields? (Yes/No). If yes, how many sessions per week per site?		
Site	Details / Response	Notes / Comments
Princess Alexandra Eye Pavilion	Yes- visual field technicians provide visual field service for a nurse led stable return glaucoma clinic one session per week	
St John's Hospital, OPD 1	No	
Royal Hospital for Children and Young People	Not applicable for neurological visual fields	
Department of Clinical Neurosciences	Not applicable for neurological visual fields	

10 What are your planned session times at each site? Do you deviate from these, and if so, why?		
Site	Details / Response	Notes / Comments
Princess Alexandra Eye Pavilion	Staff cover is available to cover the open access fields service from 8.45am until 4.30pm Monday-Thursday and until 3.15pm on Fridays.	Reduced working week implementation has required some amendment to finish times for staff- that requires closely managed to ensure sessions are covered and no change to visual field support across the 10 sessions Monday to Friday
St John's Hospital, OPD 1	Staff cover is available to cover the open access fields service from 8.30am until 5pm Monday-Thursday and until 1.30pm on Fridays	
East Lothian Community Hospital	Staff cover Wed am fortnightly	

11 On a typical week do you have sufficient capacity for your Visual Fields demands? If no, I'd be grateful for a simple description of the problem and also if you have plans in place to address this		
Site	Details / Response	Notes / Comments
Princess Alexandra Eye Pavilion	Not on all sessions. Where predicted patient numbers for the open access service exceeds 35 (glaucoma heavy sessions), it is difficult to cover the workload as limited to 5 rooms in EOPD. Workload has necessitated the need for bookable slots on 4 days of the week.	Weekly LOTT clinics (in Lauriston Building) provide some additional patient capacity and within future planned Optometry led glaucoma clinics

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