

Date 13 July 2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 11594

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
Extension 35687
Direct Line 0131 465 5687
loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot
richard.mutch@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – CATARACT SURGERY

I write in response to your request for information in relation to cataract surgery.

Question:

1. **Part A – Independent sector activity**

For each financial year 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26 to date, please provide the following for any independent sector provider commissioned by NHS Lothian to deliver cataract surgery:

- Number of NHS-funded cataract procedures performed (per eye)
- Total expenditure (£) paid to the provider
- Mean unit price (£) paid per cataract procedure

Answer:

2021/22

The Edinburgh Clinic

- 155 procedures delivered
- Total cost: £82,290.00
- Mean cost per procedure: £530

2022/23

Spire Murrayfield Hospital

- 47 procedures delivered
- Total cost: £70,500
- Mean cost per procedure: £1,500

Nuffield Health Edinburgh Hospital

- 115 procedures delivered
- Total cost: £133,700
- Mean cost per procedure: £1,162

Optical Express

- 359 procedures delivered
- Total cost: £448,750
- Mean cost per procedure: £1,250

2023/24

Spire Murrayfield Hospital

- a) 619 procedures delivered
- b) Total cost: £945,000
- c) Mean cost per procedure: £1,526

Nuffield Health Hospital

- a) 520 procedures delivered
- b) Total cost: £618,800
- c) Mean cost per procedure: £1,190

Optical Express

- a) 667 procedures delivered
- b) Total cost: £833,750
- c) Mean cost per procedure: £1,250

2024/25

Spire Murrayfield Hospital

- a) 314 procedures delivered
- b) Total cost: £471,000
- c) Mean cost per procedure: £1,500

Nuffield Health Hospital

- a) 91 procedures delivered
- b) Total cost: £105,910
- c) Mean cost per procedure: £1,163

2025/26

No independent sector providers have been commissioned during this period.

Question:

2. Part B – Insourcing arrangements

For the same period, please confirm:

- a) Names of any insourcing providers used to deliver cataract surgery at NHS Lothian facilities
- b) Number of cataract procedures delivered by each provider
- c) Total expenditure (£) paid to each provider

Answer:

2021/22 – 2024/25

No insourcing providers were used.

2025/26

- a) Provider: Medinet
- b) 1,158 procedures delivered
- c) Total cost: £342,814.00

Question:

3. Part C – Procurement route

For the providers identified above, please confirm:

- a) The procurement or contractual route used (e.g. NSS DPS, mini-competition, direct award, spot purchase or similar)
- b) Whether any further cataract outsourcing or insourcing procurement activity is currently planned or underway

Answer:

- a. Please refer to NHS National Services Scotland, National Procurement who let and own NHS contracts
- b. No plans to procure cataract capacity currently

Question:

4. Part D – Cross-boundary patient flow

For the same period, please provide:

- a) Number of NHS Lothian residents referred to NHS Golden Jubilee for cataract surgery
- b) Number of NHS Lothian residents referred to any other NHS Board for cataract surgery
- c) Number of patients from other NHS Boards treated for cataract surgery by NHS Lothian

Answer:

a. Year	Patients Referred
2021/22	2,208
2022/23	1,803
2023/24	1,760
2024/25	1,760
2025/26	3,992

c. Year	Procedures
2021/22	108
2022/23	130
2023/24	171
2024/25	92
2025/26	137

Question:

5. **Part E – Internal context**

For the same period, please provide:

- a) Total number of cataract procedures performed by NHS Lothian at its own facilities
- b) Cataract waiting list size as at 31 March of each year
- c) NHS Lothian's current pathway for offering alternative provision where waits exceed the Treatment Time Guarantee

Answer:

a. Year	Procedures
2021/22	2,322
2022/23	3,069
2023/24	4,465
2024/25	3,181
2025/26	4,735

b. Year	Waiting List Size
2021/22	1,312
2022/23	1,595
2023/24	1,090
2024/25	1,276
2025/26	2,024

Part D c) and Part E a) shows the number of procedures performed in NHS Lothian that were assigned OPCS code "C75.1 - Insertion of prosthetic replacement for lens" in clinical coding. Most of these procedures were cataract replacement only, but some more complex procedures are also included.

Part E b) shows individuals on a cataract waiting list (local_procedure one of: '2nd Eye Cataract (SAT)', '2nd Eye Cataract Treatment', 'Cataract Treatment', 'Cataract Treatment (SAT)') at the FYE

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 www.itspublicknowledge.info/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 FOI Reviewer at the email address at the head 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.nhslothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director, Nursing
Cc: Chief Executive