

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 6866

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18 August 2021

### **Freedom of Information Act 2000**

I am writing in response to your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to the business continuity plan for the Ophthalmology Department.

*You asked:*

*I found out that the laser machine in the Ophthalmology department was broken and I was on a long list and the machine was very expensive to replace.*

*What is your business continuity plan for such an event?*

Trust response:

Please accept our apologies as it would appear you have been misinformed regarding this. The PDT machine was not broken but during the pandemic the Trust temporarily paused PDT laser procedures for safety reasons (close proximity of patient and clinician in a closed off room).

The laser needed to be serviced before procedures were restarted. The company that carried this out were no longer able to provide this service. Another company who were able to provide this support needed to be sourced and this has been successful.

If the laser were to breakdown completely it is unlikely the Trust would replace it as our patient numbers are small each year and the cost of the machine very high. Few providers continue to offer the procedure for this reason. It is likely that we would then form an SLA with a tertiary organisation for onward referral.