

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 7713

Please reply to:
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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 Ophthalmology outsourcing.

You asked:

Please can you provide the total spend and volumes for your organisation towards outsourcing the following ophthalmology procedure groups (see below) for the past 5 financial years (FY2016-17, FY2017-18, FY2018-19, FY2019-20, FY2020-21):

- *Cataract surgery*
- *AMD – eye injections*
- *AMD - photodynamic therapy*
- *LASIK*
- *SMILE*
- *Surface laser treatments (PRK, LASEK and TransPRK)*

If there are sub-categorisations within these procedure groups or categorisations different to those provided, please provide the total price and volumes for them as well.

Additionally, can you please provide the outsourcing volumes split by ophthalmology provider to which your organisation currently outsources ophthalmology procedures to? If such a granular data breakdown is not available, can you please simply list the ophthalmology groups to which your organisation outsources to?

Trust response:

In line with previous FOI requests of a similar nature where this information has already been released and in order to maintain the commercial interests of the company concerned, the Trust can confirm that the name of the company is Benenden who provide some cataracts and YAG laser

procedures for the Trust. The Trust is applying Section 43(2) FOIA which provides an exemption from disclosure of information which would or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it). This is a qualified exemption, and is therefore subject to the public interest test.

The Trust believes that the information requested contains details which would be likely to damage the companies ability to win new business opportunities for their services and to perform them within a commercially competitive market.

The Trust has concluded that the public interest in maintaining the exemption, and therefore protecting the commercial interests of the suppliers and preserving its ability to compete fairly in a commercial market, outweighs the public interest in disclosure in this case.

Supplier Transactions

All NHS bodies are required to publish details of individual invoices and transactions that are over £25,000. This is in response to guidance from HM Treasury which sets out the scope of the data. Details can be found on our website using the following link: www.mtw.nhs.uk/about-us/our-quality-story/finance/