

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

RF23-723

### Request:

1. For each of the financial years between 2017/18 and 2022/23, the annual income, including both inpatient and outpatient care, from:
  - a. All ophthalmology services in total
  - b. Care for Cataracts
  - c. Care for Glaucoma
  - d. Care for Age Related Macular Degeneration
  - e. Care for Diabetic Retinopathy
2. For each of the financial years between 2017/18 and 2022/23, the annual activity, including both inpatient and outpatient care, for cataract care.
3. For each of the financial years between 2017/18 and 2022/23, the average time that a patient would have to wait between referral and first appointment for the following conditions:
  - a. Cataracts
  - b. Glaucoma
  - c. Age Related Macular Degeneration
  - d. Diabetic Retinopathy

### Response:

We can confirm East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust (EKHUFT) holds the information you have requested.

We are unable to comply with your request as the cost of responding to all parts would exceed the appropriate cost limit of £450 for NHS bodies, as defined in section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act. The £450 limit is reached by using a standard charge-out rate of £25 an hour, which equates to 18 hours' work.

In order to provide the information with the breakdown requested i.e. by condition, we would need to review the diagnosis codes for all ophthalmology inpatients to ascertain which condition(s) they have been treated for, which would require clinical review and judgement. For outpatients we do not record diagnosis codes electronically in the same way and would need to review clinic codes, which changed due to a system upgrade within the period requested. In order to retrieve the archived information data would need to be uploaded to the current software system which may not be compatible with earlier years.

We have considered ways in which your request might be narrowed or limited in order to reduce the cost of complying with it. We consider that we may be able to provide you with the information for questions 1a, b and c (for b and c it would only be for inpatients where the NHS HRG Tariff Name contains “\*Cataract\*” or “\*Glaucoma\*”). We may also be able to provide question 2 and question 3a, b and c however, for part d of question 3 we do not hold this information in electronic format and to be able to provide this would exceed 18 hours (section 12) as to identify the patients we would need to review their individual notes and collate the information.

If questions 1a, b, c, 2 and 3a, b and c would be of interest to you please submit a new FOI request to us.

**(DATE OF RESPONSE: 06 DECEMBER 2023)**