

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.17974.25
<b>Subject:</b>	Ophthalmic consumables and procedure packs
<b>Date of Request:</b>	1 August 2025

**Requested:**

1. A list of all ophthalmic consumables and procedure packs currently in use that are not covered by a formal contract or framework agreement.
2. For each non-contracted product, please provide the annual volume purchased (or used) over the last 12 months, the total spend, and the current supplier (if known).
3. If possible, please also provide the contact details (name, email, and telephone number) for the buyer or procurement lead responsible for ophthalmology within your Trust.

To make this process as straightforward as possible, we have attached an Excel template for your convenience. Please complete the relevant fields for each non-contracted product:

| Product Code | Product Description | Annual Volume (last 12 months) | Total Spend (last 12 months) | Current Supplier (if known) |

**Response:**

As some of the information requested from Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) relates to third party costs, the UHB considers that under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA), Section 43 applies, as answering would be prejudicial to their commercial interests. Section 43(2) exempts information, where disclosure would or would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any company. Commercial interests may be prejudiced where disclosure would, or would be likely to:

Weaken a company's position in a competitive environment by revealing market sensitive information or information of potential usefulness to its competitors

- Damage a company's business reputation or the confidence that customers/users, suppliers or investors may have in it.

This exemption is qualified; therefore, even if information falls within Section 43, public authorities must then apply the public interest test set out in Section 2(2)(b).

The information can only be withheld if the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

**In favour of disclosure:** There is a public interest in transparency and accountability of the activities being undertaken by the UHB for the procurement of its Ophthalmic consumables, to ensure that real value for money is being achieved, and in turn, to demonstrate the effective use of public funds.

**Against Disclosure:** Disclosure of the information could impede the UHB's ability to trade competitively, as providers would not like to carry the risk of their costings being released into the public domain. Action of this kind could directly impact the UHB's ability to treat patients, should Ophthalmic consumables not be available for procurement.

**Decision:-** Following consideration of the arguments, the UHB determines that the individual costing information being requested is commercially confidential in nature, as its use could impact the provider's ability to trade within a competitive market and equally could impact the UHB's ability to procure the items required to diagnose, treat and manage eye conditions.

However, whilst operating in accordance with the Section 45 Freedom of Information Code of Practice, the UHB has a duty to provide advice and assistance and provides the information it holds for questions 1 and 2 within the spreadsheet, as requested, at Attachment 1.

3. The UHB does not have a specific person in Procurement responsible for Ophthalmology procurement. However, procurement enquires can be directed to:  
[Hdtproc.reporting@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:Hdtproc.reporting@wales.nhs.uk)