

Reference:	FOI.10350.22
Subject:	Ophthalmology
Date of Request:	23 November 2022

Requested:

I would like the following information to be emailed to me in electronic form:

1. When is the current contract for IOLs (Intraocular lenses) in Ophthalmology up for renewal? Please provide contract end date and extension options.
2. When is your Phaco machinery (for cataracts) contract up for renewal? Please provide contract end date and extension options.
3. When is your VR machinery (for vitreoretinal) contract up for renewal? Please provide contract end date and extension options.
4. What is your current Route to Market for IOLs, Phaco and VR?
5. When does your procurement department plan to actively start in pretender engagement for IOLs, Phaco and VR? Please include a date.
6. Who is your current IOL provider and what brand of IOL you currently use?
7. Who is your current Phaco machine provider?
8. Who is your current VR machine provider?
9. How many Phaco machines do you have and what are the age of these machines?
10. How many VR machines do you have and what are the age of these machines?
11. How many YAG lasers linked PCO (Posterior capsule Opacification) after cataracts have you undertaken between 2019-2020 2021-2022 Calendar Year
12. Do you have any subcontracting arrangements for Cataract Surgery with the independent sector within this financial year, if so, please provide details including volumes?

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with the information requested for question 11, as it is estimated that the cost of answering your request would exceed the "appropriate limit" as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. The "appropriate limit" represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours (or 2½ working days) in determining whether the UHB holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

In order to provide you with the information being requested, the UHB would need to identify those individuals that were treated for cataracts for the two (2) calendar years requested and undertake a manual search of their patient records, to identify the number of patients that were treated with

Yttrium Aluminium Garnet (YAG) lasers linked to Posterior Capsule Opacifications (PCO), as this information is not recorded centrally.

The UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA), which provides an exemption from a public authority's obligation to comply with a request for information where the cost of compliance is estimated to exceed the *appropriate limit*.

However, under Section 16 of the FoIA, the UHB has a duty to provide advice and assistance. Therefore, the UHB has provided responses to the remainder of your request below.

1. The UHB confirms that its Intraocular Lenses (IOL) contract renewal date is 31 May 2023, with no option to extend the contract.
2. The UHB confirms that its cataract Phaco machinery maintenance contract renewal date is 31 March 2023, with no option to extend the contract.
3. The UHB confirms that its Vitreoretinal (VR) machinery contract renewal date is 31 March 2023, with no option to extend the contract.
4. The UHB's current Route to Market for IOLs, Phaco and VR is through the All Wales Ophthalmic Surgery Consumables Framework Agreement.
5. The information requested is already within the public domain and therefore, the UHB has applied an exemption under Section 21 of the FoIA, as the information is accessible by another means.

NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership's (NWSSP) Procurement Department commenced pre-engagement activity for the procurement of IOLs, Phaco and VR machines on 21 September 2022 via the All Wales Ophthalmic Surgery Consumables Framework Agreement. Details of this are available on the Welsh Government's (WG) Sell2Wales website.

For ease of reference, please click on the attached link which will take you directly to the relevant webpage:

[View Notice - Sell2Wales \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales/sell2wales)

6. The UHB provides, within the table below, its current IOL providers and brands.

IOL provider	Brand
ALCON EYE CARE UK LTD	ACRYSOF® MULTI PIECE PMMA ANTERIOR CHAMBER
BAUSCH & LOMB (UK) LTD	ENVISTA EYECCE SOFPORT KELMAN® MULTIFLEX
SPECTRUM OPHTHALMICS	OPHTEC

7. & 8. The UHB confirms that the current provider for its Phaco and VCR machines is Bausch and Lomb.

9. The UHB confirms that it has a total of three (3) Phaco machines; two (2) are approximately ten (10) years old as they were manufactured in 2013 (one (1) of these is a loan device) and one (1) is approximately seven years old (7) which was installed in 2016.
10. The UHB confirms that it has one (1) VR machine. However, other Stellaris machines can perform limited VR procedures. Additionally, the UHB has one (1) Phaco machine that can be fitted with extra functions/equipment to enable VR surgery.
11. Section 12 exemption applied. Full explanation provided above.
12. The UHB confirms that it outsourced 1,154 patients for cataract surgery, during the period 1 April 2022 to the date of your request, 23 November 2022. However, the UHB does not currently have any active outsourcing contracts for cataracts in place for the remainder of the 2022/23 financial year.