

Reference:	FOI.13596, 13631, 13636 & 13637.24
Subject:	Ophthalmology
Date of Request:	17 January 2024

Requested:

FOI.13596 – Ophthalmology Services

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: 2021-2022 2022-2023 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?

FOI.13631 – Ophthalmology Services

1. Does the Trust currently complete Optical Biometry for the purpose of selecting an Intraocular Lens choice for Cataract Surgery? [YES/NO]
2. Which department for the Trust is responsible for carrying out the Optical Biometry? [e.g. Outpatients, Ophthalmology, Other]
3. Is there a specified role within this department that is responsible for Optical Biometry? [e.g. Consultant Ophthalmologist, Registrar, Orthoptist, Nurse, etc.]
4. How many biometry calculations does the department complete during an average week? [Number]

5. How many pieces of equipment does the department use for Optical Biometry, and what is the manufacturer, model and age? [Please list these, including Manufacturer, Model, and Age of Equipment]
6. Is this equipment owned, leased or rented by the department? [Owned / Leased / Rented]
7. If the equipment is Leased or Rented, how long is this contract, and when does it come to an end? Is there an option to extend the contract? Is this contract linked to the purchase of any related consumables, e.g. IOLs? [Length], [Date], [YES / NO], [RELATED CONSUMABLE?]
8. Does the Trust / department replace these after a fixed time period, and if so, what is this time period in years? [YES / NO], [Years]
9. Does the Trust / Department currently have a service contract in place for this equipment with either the equipment manufacturer or another maintenance provider? [MANUFACTURER / 3rd PARTY / NO]
10. Is the Trust currently in the buying cycle for new biometry equipment? [YES / NO]
- 10a. If Yes, when is this procurement exercise expected to take place? [Expected Date]
- 10b. If No, does the Trust plan to start the buying cycle within the next 3 years? [YES / NO]
11. Does the Trust link the Biometry measurements to an electronic patient record (PACS or EHR system), or are these stored on the equipment locally and printed? [EHR SYSTEM / PAPER RECORDS / OTHER]
12. If EHR, which electronic patient record system does the Trust use? [e.g. MediSoft, HIVE, FORUM, etc.]
13. Can these electronic biometry measurements be accessed in the department only, or in the Operating Theatre during surgery? [Department Only / Operating Theatre / N/A]

FOI.13636 – Ophthalmology Services

1. Does the Trust currently use an Operating Microscope for the purposes of Ophthalmic Surgery? [YES / NO]
2. How many pieces of microscopy equipment does the operating department use for Ophthalmic Surgery, and what is the manufacturer, model and age? [Please list these, including Manufacturer, Model, and Age of Equipment]
3. Are these microscopes free-standing or ceiling-mounted? [Floor-standing / Ceiling-Mounted]
4. Is this equipment owned, leased or rented by the department? [Owned / Leased / Rented]
5. If the equipment is Leased or Rented, how long is this contract, and when does it come to an end? Is there an option to extend the contract? Is this contract linked to the purchase of any related consumables, e.g. IOLs? [Length], [Date], [YES / NO], [RELATED CONSUMABLE?]
6. Does the Trust / department plan to replace these after a fixed time period, and if so, what is this time period in years? [YES / NO], [Years]

7. Does the Trust / Department currently have a service contract in place for this equipment with either the equipment manufacturer or another maintenance provider? [MANUFACTURER / 3rd PARTY / NO]
8. Is the Trust currently in the buying cycle for new ophthalmic microscopy equipment? [YES / NO]
9. If Yes, when is this procurement exercise expected to take place? [Expected Date]
10. If No, does the Trust plan to start the buying cycle within the next 3 years? [YES / NO]
11. What is the Trust's route to market for new pieces of ophthalmic microscopy equipment? [Direct Purchase Agreement / NHSSC / Other]

FOI.13637 – Ophthalmology Services

1. Does the Trust currently use a Digital System / 3D Viewing System for the purposes of Ophthalmic Surgery, or for any other surgical department? [YES / NO / Other – If other please specify]
2. How many pieces of Digital System / 3D Viewing System equipment does the operating department use for Ophthalmic Surgery, and what is the manufacturer, model and age? [Please list these, including Manufacturer, Model, and Age of Equipment]
3. Is this equipment owned, leased or rented by the department? [Owned / Leased / Rented]
4. If the equipment is Leased or Rented, how long is this contract, and when does it come to an end? Is there an option to extend the contract? Is this contract linked to the purchase of any related consumables, e.g. IOLs? [Length], [Date], [YES / NO], [RELATED CONSUMABLE?]
5. Does the Trust / Department plan to replace these after a fixed time period, and if so, what is this time period in years? [YES / NO], [Years]
6. Does the Trust / Department currently have a service contract in place for this equipment with either the equipment manufacturer or another maintenance provider? [MANUFACTURER / 3rd PARTY / NO]
7. Is the Trust currently in the buying cycle for a new ophthalmic surgery Digital System / 3D viewing system? [YES / NO]
8. If Yes, when is this procurement exercise expected to take place? [Expected Date]
9. If No, does the Trust plan to start the buying cycle within the next 3 years? [YES / NO]
10. Does the Trust have access to an innovation budget to support surgical advancements, for example to fund the provision of a 3D Viewing System for Ophthalmic Surgery to assist with training? [YES / NO / UNSURE]
11. What would be the Trust's route to market for a new ophthalmic surgery 3D viewing system? [Direct Purchase Agreement / NHSSC / Other]

Response:

FOI.13596 – Ophthalmology Services

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 30 June 2027, with no option to extend the contract.
2. The UHB confirms that its cataract Phaco machinery maintenance contract renewal date is 31 March 2024, with no option to extend the contract.
3. The UHB confirms that its Vitreoretinal (VR) machinery contract renewal date is 31 March 2024, 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 \(gov.wales\)](#)

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
CARL ZEISS	IOL MASTER

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; one (1) is approximately eleven (11) years old as it was manufactured in 2013 and two (2) are approximately eight (8) years old and were 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 one hundred and sixty-seven (167) patients are planned to be outsourced for Cataract surgery, in the 2023/24 financial year.

FOI.13631 – Ophthalmology Services

1. The UHB confirms that it does complete Optical Biometry for the purpose of selecting an Intraocular Lens choice for Cataract surgery.
2. The UHB confirms that its Ophthalmology department carries out Optical Biometry within the UHB.
3. The UHB confirms that its Orthoptists and Nurses undertake Optical Biometry within the UHB's Ophthalmology department.
4. The UHB confirms that its Ophthalmology department completes an average of fifty (50) Biometry calculations per week.
5. The UHB confirms that it has a total of three (3) IOL Master 700 machines used for Optical Biometry; they are approximately five (5) years old. The manufacturer of the machines is Carl Zeiss.
6. The UHB confirms that it owns the three (3) IOL Master 700 machines used for Optical Biometry by the Ophthalmology team.
7. Not applicable.

8. The UHB confirms that it does replace the IOL Master 700 machines as and when is required. There is no fixed time period to this. Equipment is replaced when needed based on end-of-life capital planning
9. The UHB confirms that it has a service contract in place for this equipment with the manufacturer.
10. The UHB is not currently planning the purchase of new Biometry equipment.
- 10a. Not applicable
- 10b. The UHB does not currently have plans to purchase new Biometry equipment within the next three (3) years.
11. The UHB confirms that the Ophthalmology department uses an Electronic Patient Record system to record Biometry measurements.
12. The UHB confirms that its Ophthalmology department uses the Electronic Patient Record system FORUM, to record Biometry measurements.
13. FORUM can be accessed across the UHB on any of its hospital sites.

FOI.13636 – Ophthalmology Services

1. The UHB can confirm that it does use an Operating Microscope for the purposes of Ophthalmic surgery.
2. & 3. The UHB provides, within the table below, a list of the Microscopy equipment used for Ophthalmic Surgery, including the quantity, manufacturer, model, age and placement.

Quantity	Manufacturer	Model	Age	Placement
1	Carl Zeiss	OPMI Lumera 700	12	Ceiling Mounted
1	Carl Zeiss	OPMI Lumera 700	3	Freestanding/ Mobile
1	Carl Zeiss	OPMI Lumera	14	Floor Mounted

4. The UHB can confirm that the Microscopy equipment is owned by the UHB.
5. Not applicable
6. The UHB is not currently planning the purchase of new Microscopy equipment. Equipment is replaced when needed based on end-of-life capital planning.
7. The UHB can confirm that it has a service contract in place for this equipment with the manufacturer.
8. The UHB can confirm that it does not currently have plans to purchase new Microscopy equipment.
9. Not applicable.

10. The UHB can confirm that it is not currently planning the purchase of new Microscopy equipment within the next three (3) years.

11. The UHB can advise that its route to market to purchase Ophthalmic Microscopy equipment is through direct purchase agreements and the NHS supply chain.

FOI.13637 – Ophthalmology Services

1. The UHB can confirm that it does not currently use a Digital System / 3D Viewing System for the purposes of Ophthalmic Surgery, or for any other surgical department.

2. – 9. Not applicable

10. The UHB can advise that it does not have any innovation funding allocated to Planned Care in respect of surgical advancements.

11. The UHB can advise that its route to market to purchase an Ophthalmic Surgery 3D viewing system would be through direct purchase agreements and the NHS supply chain.