



18 April 2019

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – DECISION NOTICE

Dear Requester

**FOI Reference Number: 000358**

I refer to your email of 2 April requesting information in respect of cataract surgery.

I can confirm on behalf of Great Yarmouth and Waveney, North Norfolk, South Norfolk, Norwich and West Norfolk CCGs and in accordance with S.1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) that we do hold some of the information that you have requested. A response to each element of your request is detailed below:

### **Information requested**

For each of the three financial years; a) **2018-19**, b) **2017-18** c) **2016-17**, please provide:

1. the number of Individual Funding Requests (IFRs) and/or prior approval (PA) requests that the CCG **received** for cataract surgery
2. the number of Individual Funding Requests (IFRs) and/or prior approval (PA) requests that the CCG **approved** for cataract surgery
3. the CCG's **total activity** for cataract surgery (i.e. the total number of procedures carried out)
4. Please state the CCG's **projected 12 month activity** for cataract surgery in **2019-20**.

The following response is informed by information held by the Individual Funding Request (IFR) Team on behalf of the CCGs in relation to the IFR Service commissioned under a Service Level Agreement. This is coupled with some information held by the CCGs.

### **Response**

Please note that there have been several changes of systems used for recording information and providers of the IFR and Prior Approval service since 2016. Therefore, the information held by the CCGs is limited however that identified is provided below.

Please note that in January 2018 a clinical threshold policy was agreed which meant that the clinical expert who was treating the patient would ensure that patients met specific criteria as stipulated in the Clinical Threshold Policy. See the following links for further information:

<https://www.westnorfolkccg.nhs.uk/individual-funding-requests-nhs-treatment/clinical-policies>

<https://www.knowledgeanglia.nhs.uk/> (search clinical threshold and/or clinical threshold policy)

From the information held the CCGs' can advise that for both

- North Norfolk CCG and Norwich CCG there was one IFR request received for each CCG in 2017/18 from patients not meeting the clinical threshold.
- From the information held there are no records of requests received for South Norfolk or West Norfolk CCGs.
- No information is held relating to projected activity for North, South, West or Norwich CCGs.

For Great Yarmouth and Waveney CCG see below:

2016-17			2017-18			2018-19			2019-20
# of IFR or PA requests received for cataract surgery	# of IFR or PA requests approved for cataract surgery	Total CCG activity for cataract surgery	# of IFR or PA requests received for cataract surgery	No. of requests approved for cataract surgery	Total CCG activity for cataract surgery	# of IFR or PA requests received for cataract surgery	# of IFR or PA requests approved for cataract surgery	Total activity for cataract surgery	Projected 12 month activity for cataract surgery
1200	1200	1571	0	0	1600	0	0	1879	1922

I hope that this answers your queries with the information we currently hold, but if I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to

Arden & GEM CSU  
FOI Team, Room 18  
Scarsdale  
Newbold Road  
Chesterfield  
S41 7PF

Email [agcus.foi.norfolkwaveneyccgs@nhs.net](mailto:agcus.foi.norfolkwaveneyccgs@nhs.net)

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided the CCG.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioners Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF, telephone 0303 123 1113, email [casework@ico.org.uk](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk)

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<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>

Yours faithfully

Philip Humphreys

***FOI Manager, Arden & GEM CSU***

**On behalf of  
Great Yarmouth and Waveney,  
North Norfolk, South Norfolk  
Norwich and West Norfolk CCGs**