



19 March 2024

**Our Ref:** RFI 56053

**Freedom of Information Act 2000  
Information in Relation to Ophthalmology**

I am writing to confirm that the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (the Trust) has now completed its search for information relating to above which you requested on 23 January 2024. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to your request. Thank you for your understanding and forbearance.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Medicine, Unscheduled Care & Cancer Services Directorate and is attached in Appendix A.

If you are unhappy as to how this request has been handled, you have the right to seek a review within the Trust in the first instance. You should write to the Information Governance Department, Lough House, Ards Community Hospital ([informationgovernance@setrust.hscni.net](mailto:informationgovernance@setrust.hscni.net)) within two months of the date of this response and your complaint will be considered and a response provided, within 20 working days of receipt.

If, after receiving a response, you remain unhappy, you can refer your complaint to the Information Commissioner at The Information Commissioner's Office –Northern Ireland, 3rd Floor, 14 Cromac Place, Belfast, BT7 2JB. It is important to note that if you refer any matter to the Information Commissioner, you will need to show evidence of having gone through the Trust's internal review procedure to try to resolve the matter with the Trust in the first instance.

If you have any queries about this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

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**Rebecca Manning**  
**Information Governance Officer**

**Q1. Does the Trust currently complete Optical Biometry for the purpose of selecting an Intraocular Lens choice for Cataract Surgery? [YES/NO]**

A1. Yes, the Trust currently completes Optical Biometry for the purpose of selecting an Intraocular lens choice for Cataract Surgery.

**Q2. Which department for the Trust is responsible for carrying out the Optical Biometry? [e.g. Outpatients, Ophthalmology, Other]**

A2. The Outpatients Ophthalmology Department is responsible for carrying out Optical Biometry.

**Q3. Is there a specified role within this department that is responsible for Optical Biometry? [e.g. Consultant Ophthalmologist, Registrar, Orthoptist, Nurse, etc.]**

A3. Yes, Outpatient Ophthalmology Nurses, Optometrists and Consultants are responsible for Optical Biometry.

**Q4. How many biometry calculations does the department complete during an average week? [Number]**

A4. During an average week, the pre-assessment team have capacity in their clinics for 60 calculations, they also carry out telephone pre-assessments which adds a further 20-30 assessments per week.

**Q5. 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]**

A5. Please see Table 1 for Optical Biometry equipment details.

Table 1

<b>Manufacturer/Model</b>	<b>Equipment Amount</b>	<b>Age</b>
Zeiss IOL 700	1	5 years old
Zeiss IOL 500	2	1 – 20+ years old 1 – approx. 15 years old
Touch Biometry A Scanner	1	Approx. 20 years old

**Q6. Is this equipment owned, leased or rented by the department? [Owned / Leased / Rented]**

A6. The Trusts Outpatients department own the machinery.

**Q7. 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?]**

A7. N/A.

**Q8. Does the Trust / department replace these after a fixed time period, and if so, what is this time period in years? [YES / NO], [Years]**

A8. No, there is no fixed time period to replace the equipment.

**Q9. 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]**

A9. Yes, the current service agreement is with Tekno surgical serviced by sisk healthcare, for the iol700. However, the iol500, is out of service contract and payment is required at each repair visit.

**Q10. Is the Trust currently in the buying cycle for new biometry equipment? [YES / NO]**

A10. No, the Trust is not currently in the buying cycle for new biometry equipment.

**Q11. If Yes, when is this procurement exercise expected to take place? [Expected Date]**

A11. N/A.

**Q12. If No, does the Trust plan to start the buying cycle within the next 3 years? [YES / NO]**

A12. No, at present the Trust does not plan to start the buying cycle within the next 3 years.

**Q13. 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]**

A13. No, at present none of the Trusts biometry equipment is networked to upload to electronic patient records. The Trust currently only have a printed version available.

**Q14. *If EHR, which electronic patient record system does the Trust use? [e.g. MediSoft, HIVE, FORUM, etc.]***

A14. The Trust is currently using Encompass patient record system since November 2023, however the Ophthalmology service is run by the Belfast Health & Social Care Trust therefore the Trust is currently operating with paper records.

**Q15. *Can these electronic biometry measurements be accessed in the department only, or in the Operating Theatre during surgery? [Department Only / Operating Theatre / N/A]***

A15. Biometry is printed at pre-assessment and filed in the patient's notes. If not available to theatre (i.e. if the notes arrive to theatre and incorrect volume is sent, patients can and do have a repeat biometry carried out if pre-assessment nursing staff available on that day.