

20 June 2025

Cataract Surgery

The overall / total spend on cataract surgery procedures each financial year by year across your Health Board from 2018/19 to 2023/24. Please additionally supply the total spend on cataract surgery procedures across your Health Board for the financial year of 2024/25 if this is presently available.

The spend against cataract surgery specifically is not individually tracked, therefore values cannot be provided at this time for Health Board activity.

The overall / total number of cataract surgery procedures undertaken each financial year by year across your Health Board from 2018/19 to 2023/24. Please additionally supply the overall / total number of cataract surgery procedures across your Health Board for the financial year of 2024/25 if this is presently available.

18/19 – 7346
19/20 – 5950
20/21 – 3270
21/22 – 7804
22/23 – 9,395
23/24 – 6997
24/25 – 6,212

The overall / total spend on cataract surgery procedures each financial year by year across your Health Board to each NHS Hospital and Private (Independent Sector) Provider from 2018/19 to 2023/24 broken down by individual NHS Hospital and Private Provider. Please additionally supply the total spend on cataract surgery procedures across your Health Board to each NHS Hospital and Private Provider on an individual level for the financial year of 2024/25 if this is presently available.

The spend against cataract surgery specifically is not individually tracked, therefore values cannot be provided at this time for Health Board activity.

Please specifically specify your answer to Question 3 for the following Private Providers:

The Trust is not able to provide the spend per provider as this may give an indication of prices which is contrary to competition and consumer protection laws. It is exempt from release under Section 43 of the FOI Act which relates to Commercially Sensitive Information.

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18/19 – Approx. £826,836.00
19/20 – Approx. £139,680.00
20/21- Approx. £213,000.00
21/22 – Approx. £1,216,500.00
22/23 – Approx. £1,619,204.00
23/24 – Approx. £84,000.00

The overall / total number of cataract surgery procedures undertaken in each financial year by year across your Health Board by each NHS Hospital and Private (Independent Sector) Provider from 2018/19 to 2023/24 broken down by individual NHS Hospital and Private Provider. Please additionally supply the total number of cataract surgery procedures undertaken by each NHS Hospital and Private Provider across your Health Board by each NHS Hospital and Private Provider on an individual level for the financial year of 2024/25 if this is presently available.

Please specifically specify your answer to Question 4 for the following Private Providers:

Belfast Trust

18/19 – 3468
19/20 – 1859
20/21 – 414
21/22 – 289
22/23 – 731
23/24 – 782
24/25 – 504

Western Trust

18/19 – 1166
19/20 – 679
20/21 – 337
21/22 – 588
22/23 – 503
23/24 – 373
24/25 – 702

Northern Trust

18/19 – 631
19/20 – 884
20/21 – 293
21/22 – 692
22/23 – 1444
23/24 – 1609
24/25 – 1655

South Eastern

18/19 – 1462

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19/20 – 1354
20/21 – 1759
21/22 – 5108
22/23 – 5011
23/24 – 2560
24/25 – 2334

Above figures included IS activity carried out onsite.

Southern Trust

18/19 – 619
19/20 – 1174
20/21 – 467
21/22 – 1127
22/23 – 1706
23/24 – 1673
24/25 – 1017

h) Kingsbridge Private Hospital

18/19 – 584
19/20 – 45
22/23 – <5

i) Hillsborough Private Clinic

18/19 – 76

j) Cathedral Eye Clinic

18/19 – 229
19/20 – 72
20/21- 142
21/22 – 811
22/23 – 1079
23/24 – 56

k) Optical Express – Not Applicable

l) Ulster Independent Clinic – Not Applicable

m) Spamedica – Not Applicable

n) Freedom Vision – Not Applicable

164 cataracts performed by Alliance Clinical Services in 23/24.
21 cataracts performed by Alliance Clinical Services in 24/25.

20 cataracts performed by Mater Private in 21/22.
28 cataracts performed by Mater Private in 22/23.

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For the period 1st of April 2024 to YTD, please provide the names of all in NHS Hospital and Private (Independent Sector) Providers that have undertaken Cataract Surgery, YAG capsulotomy procedures, General Ophthalmology outpatient, Oculoplastic services, AMD services & Glaucoma services of any description to the Health Board.

- Cathedral Eye Clinic, Spa Medica, Alliance Clinical Services.

Please provide the number of patients on waiting lists for cataract surgery at the Health Board as of:

- a) 1 January 2019 3871
- b) 1 January 2020 3620
- c) 1 January 2021 3867
- d) 1 January 2022 2790
- e) 1 January 2023 1875
- f) 1 January 2024 2059
- g) 1 January 2025 1503

Please provide the number and percentage of patients who were waiting longer than 18 weeks from the date of referral to cataract surgery as of:

- a) 1 January 2019 2226 – 58%
- b) 1 January 2020 2547 – 70%
- c) 1 January 2021 2680 – 69%
- d) 1 January 2022 1694 – 61%
- e) 1 January 2023 716 – 38%
- f) 1 January 2024 727 – 35%
- g) 1 January 2025 653 – 43%

Please provide the maximum and average wait times of patients on waiting lists for cataract surgery at the Health Board as of:

- h) 1 January 2019
- i) 1 January 2020
- j) 1 January 2021
- k) 1 January 2022
- l) 1 January 2023
- m) 1 January 2024
- n) 1 January 2025

Date	Average Waiting time (Weeks)	Maximum waiting time (Weeks)
01/01/19	24	121
01/01/20	28	164
01/01/21	42	216

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01/01/22	40	268
01/01/23	27	280
01/01/24	20	332
01/01/25	24	385

Please provide the number and percentage of NHS funded patients who had Immediate Sequential Bilateral Cataract Surgery at Hospitals and Private Providers (individually and collectively) within your Health Board in each of the following financial years:

- a) **2019/2020** – 0 Belfast Trust
- b) **2020/2021** – 0 Belfast Trust
- c) **2021/2022** – <5 Belfast Trust
- d) **2022/2023** – 0 Belfast Trust
- e) **2023/2024** – <5 Belfast Trust
- f) **2024/2025** – <5 Belfast Trust

None for Independent Sector Providers.

Please provide the minimum, maximum and average number of eyes treated on cataract surgery lists (by session, up to 4 hours) at Hospitals and Private Providers (individually by provider) within your Health Board in each of the following financial years:

- g) **2019/2020**
- h) **2020/2021**
- i) **2021/2022**
- j) **2022/2023**
- k) **2023/2024**
- l) **2024/2025**

The average target is 8 cataracts per 4 hours session.

*Where numbers are low, we have used <5 rather than give the exact figure. This is to protect patient identity.