

Ref: FOI/00409/CMICB
12 June 2023

Dear,

**Re: Freedom of Information Act 2000
Optometry Electronic Referral Pathways**

Thank you for your information request indicated in bold below, which has now been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 by NHS Cheshire & Merseyside Integrated Care Board (ICB). I am able to provide you with the following information and responses.

Please note from 01 July 2022, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) were disestablished, and their statutory functions and responsibilities inherited by NHS Cheshire and Merseyside ICB.

Your Request:

1) What electronic referral pathways are in place between optometry and secondary care within NHS Cheshire and Merseyside ICB?

Our Response:

1) Optometry referrals can be made between primary and secondary care providers within NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB by email or eRS (via Opera electronic platform managed by Primary Eyecare Services).

Your Request:

2) What proportion of optometry practices are able to access each platform?

Our Response:

2) 186 of the 228 optical practices in Cheshire & Merseyside ICB have access to Opera to make electronic referrals.

Should you require any further information or clarification regarding this response or do not feel that your request has been answered as you would expect, please contact us to discuss.

We also wish to take this opportunity to inform you that, where you are not satisfied with the response to your request for information, a formal complaints and internal review process is available.

This can be formally requested by emailing foi@cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk and must be done within a reasonable time period (3 calendar months) from the date this response was issued.

Where you remain dissatisfied with our review under the Freedom of Information Act or the Environmental Information Regulations, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) for a review of your appeal decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our complaints procedure.

The ICO can be contacted at;

*The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
www.ico.gov.uk*