

Trust Headquarters  
Russell's Hall Hospital  
Dudley  
West Midlands  
DY1 2HQ

**Ref:** FOI-032025-0001467

**Date:** 1.5.25

**Address / Email:**

Dear

**Request Under Freedom of Information Act 2000**

Thank you for requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please see response below.

I would like to request the following information regarding the ophthalmology services and IT systems used within your Trust:

**Ophthalmology Department & IT Record System**

1. Does your Trust have an ophthalmology department and/or provide ophthalmology clinics?

- **Yes**

2. If so, what is the name of the principal IT record system used to document results from patient consultations within ophthalmology?

- **Medisight and Forum, EPR**

**Imaging Capabilities & System Integration**

3. Does the principal IT system allow clinicians to view images from scans conducted during a clinic visit?

- **Some connections are integrated with Medisight and Forum, but not all our diagnostic equipment. The Department uses a number of different image viewers as not all images are delivered into Forum and Medisight.**

4. Are there any types of medical images that **cannot** be imported into this principal IT system? If so:

• What is the name of the IT programme used by clinicians to view these images?

- **Heidelberg OCT, TopCon OCT, Heidelberg OCT, Kowa**

• What is the name of the scan/modality that generates these images? -

- **TopCon images are historic. Various devices are used to create the actual images for Heidelberg or Kowa or OptOS**

**Data Integration with National Systems**

5. Does the principal IT system integrate with the NHS Spine or other national patient record systems (e.g., OpenEyes, Medisoft, Epic)?

- **No**

6. Does the system support the exchange of structured data with other NHS Trusts or external healthcare providers?

- **No**

### **Patient Access & Communication**

7. Does the system allow patients to access their ophthalmology records, including images, via the NHS App or another patient portal?

- **No**

8. Are there any restrictions on how imaging data can be shared with patients and external providers?

- **Not applicable**

### **Image Storage & Viewing Capabilities**

9. What is the storage capacity and retention policy for ophthalmology-related imaging within the IT system?

- **Retention policy is in line with Trusts. Zeiss Forum – 2TB, OPTOS – 2TB, TopCon / Heidelberg – 8TB, Kowa – 250GB, Medisight database – 190GB**

10. If images are not viewable within the principal IT system, does the Trust use a separate **PACS (Picture Archiving and Communication System)** for ophthalmology imaging?

- **Currently the Trust does not save images into PACS for Ophthalmology. The Department uses a number of different image viewers as not all images are delivered into Forum and Medisight. Examples include TopCon OCT, Heidelberg OCT, Kowa, OPTOS**

### **Future IT Developments & Interoperability**

11. Is the Trust planning any upgrades or changes to its ophthalmology IT infrastructure in the next five years?

- **Possibly increasing the subspeciality packages for Medisight and improve the viewing of diagnostic images within Medisight**

12. Are there known interoperability challenges that affect the transfer of ophthalmology data within the Trust or between NHS organizations?

- **Yes, Medisight does not currently fully communicate with the main Trust EPR, Sunrise, and so Ophthalmology EPR are not fully accessible from other areas in the Trust.**

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you have the right to appeal in line with guidance from the Information Commissioner. In the first instance you may contact the Information Governance Manager of the Trust.

Information Governance Manager  
Trust Headquarters  
Russell's Hall Hospital  
Dudley  
West Midlands  
DY1 2HQ  
Email: [dgft.dpo@nhs.net](mailto:dgft.dpo@nhs.net)

Should you disagree with the contents of our response to your appeal, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioners Office at.

Information Commissioners Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane

FOI/REF FOI-

Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF  
Tel: 0303 123 1113  
[www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

If you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

**Freedom of Information Team**  
**The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust**