



# Request for Information Follow up questions

## Ophthalmology – triage, tier 2 and minor surgery

From Midlands and Lancashire  
Commissioning Support Unit

On behalf of West Lancashire Clinical  
Commissioning Group

Reference – L16/25



## Section 1 – Context

- 1.1 Following a series of supplier meetings in relation to the recent RFI for Ophthalmology services NHS West Lancashire CCG (CCG) wishes to provide feedback on the questions raised by suppliers.
- 1.2 The CCG is currently considering its future strategy for this project based on the RFI response feedback and the innovation opportunities shared by suppliers.
- 1.3 We anticipate a small slippage on project timescales but would encourage you to pre-register your organisation on the NHS Midlands and Lancashire CSU sourcing portal (<https://mlcsu.bravosolution.co.uk>).
- 1.4 It is our intention to advise all suppliers who engaged in the RFI process with visibility of the tendering opportunity once the OJEU notice is uploaded onto Tenders Electronic Daily and subsequently onto Contracts Finder.
- 1.5 Details of the RFI document and the questions raised will be made available to potential suppliers who engage with the OJEU tender.
- 1.6 We do not intend to share any responses to the RFI but should WLCCG or MLCSU receive a Freedom of Information Act request in relation to your RFI response we will engage with you to define the appropriate course of action to manage the request.
- 1.7 The questions we are providing feedback on are as attached.

Question	Response
Is this part of your QIPP plan for this year	Yes
How will you intend to use a e-sourcing tool for the tender	We will use the Midlands and Lancashire CSU Bravo tendering solution <a href="https://mlcsu.bravosolution.co.uk">https://mlcsu.bravosolution.co.uk</a> of which suppliers can register their company details at any time
Will we be able to use attachments and images in our responses to the tender	Some questions will be specifically designed to allow for images to be attached.
Will there be character count limitations for each question?	Yes, character limitations will be defined at question level.
How will you score evaluation – quality / price – services going out on price only	We will provide open and transparent weighting for each question
Why did you not get sufficient take up?	A combination of a number of reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current Provider is in directly bookable on the e-Referrals systems</li> <li>• GPs confidence in what referrals the current Provider will expect</li> <li>• Minor surgery is provided out of area – less convenient for patients</li> </ul>
Where are minor operations currently carried out	In Preston which is not perceived as a positive location for patients
What as the spend trend been over the last	The trend is that spend has dropped year on year

three years	
Referrals process	the Provide will receive Ophthalmology referrals from GPs, Opticians, A&E and urgent care centres. It is expected that the Provider will use the e-referrals systems as this is key for onward referrals to Secondary Care
Assistance with access to Health Centres	<p>The CCG will offer assistance with local Estates where possible prior to the OJEU notice being issued, but this cannot be guaranteed.</p> <p>Note once the OJEU notice for the opportunity has been issued the CCG will not be able to offer support to any supplier during the tender period.</p>
Is there the possibility that Cataracts and AMD be included as part of the service in the future	Cataracts and AMD are in the CCG plans to review soon, with a view to going out to procurement.