

## General Ophthalmic Services Quarterly Series to Q2 2022/23 (2022/23 Figures Provisional)



**Sight Tests** in NI are free in many cases based on extensive eligibility criteria pertaining to age, current health, and social security status. These tests are conducted by registered Optometrists and Ophthalmic Medical Practitioners, and the costs are claimed back through BSO. These are mostly carried out at the practitioner's premises.

There were **108,561** sight tests paid for by BSO during quarter 2 of 2022/23, not including domiciliary tests.



A decrease of **3.7%** on the previous quarter.



An increase of **4.9%** on the same quarter in 2021/22.

**Optical Vouchers** A patient may receive a voucher toward the cost of glasses, having lenses fitted to their current frames or contact lenses if they are eligible after a health service sight test is carried out. To note, the eligibility for an optical voucher is not the same as for a free sight test.

**Repair/Replacement Vouchers** Eligibility for vouchers for repair or replacements is the same as that for optical vouchers. However, patients must provide additional information on how the loss or damage happened.

There were **42,600** vouchers paid for during quarter 2 of 2022/23:

↓ **8.1%** on the previous quarter

↑ **0.8%** on the same quarter in 2021/22

There were **9,359** repairs/replacements paid for during quarter 2 of 2022/23:

↓ **1.9%** on the previous quarter

↑ **2.7%** on the same quarter last year

**Ophthalmic Medical Practitioners (OMPs)** are qualified doctors who specialise in eyes and eye care.

**Optometrists** are eye care professionals who are qualified to examine all aspects of the health of the eyes.

At the end of September 2022 there were **271** Ophthalmic Practices, **5** OMPs and **680** Optometrists registered in NI.

**Domiciliary Sight Tests** If a patient who is eligible for a sight test is unable to leave their home unaccompanied they can have a domiciliary sight test. These are mostly carried out in people's homes, residential homes and day care centres.

In quarter 2 of 2022/23 there were **3,477** domiciliary sight tests paid for by BSO.



A decrease of **5.1%** from the previous quarter.



An increase of **52.9%** on the same quarter last year.

**Primary Care Optometry Enhanced Services** These services are designed to cover enhanced aspects of clinical care of the patient, all of which are beyond the scope of essential, core, General Ophthalmic Services.

During quarter 2 of 2022/23, BSO paid for:

- **385 LES I** assessments, ↑ **61.1%** on the same quarter last year.

- **130 LES II** assessments, ↑ **32.7%** on the same quarter last year.

- **248 OHT** assessments, ↑ **51.2%** on the same quarter last year.

- **11,172 NI PEARS** assessments, ↑ **18.7%** on the same quarter last year.

**Total Payment** made in relation to GOS activity and Covid-19 payments = Cost of Sight Tests (inc domiciliary), Vouchers and Repairs & Replacements + FSS+PPE.

Payment made in relation to GOS activity and Covid-19 totalled **£5.31m** during July - September 2022



Payments made down **2.9%** on the previous quarter.



Payments made down **1.7%** on the same quarter in 2021/22.