

**Reference:** FOI 34034 BUCKS 14Y

**Subject:** POLCE Policies

*I can confirm that the CCG does hold the information requested; please see responses below:*

QUESTION	RESPONSE
<p>For your information, POLCE refers to Procedures of Limited Clinical Effectiveness, but is previously known as ‘low priority treatments’. Please treat POLCE in this request as referring to ‘Procedures of Limited Clinical Effectiveness’ and what was previously called ‘low priority treatments’.</p> <p>Please could you provide answers to each following question covering the following time periods: (please provide data covering exclusively in calendar years)</p> <p>The first covering the time period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015;          The second covering the time period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016;          The third covering the time period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017;          and the fourth covering the time period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018;          and the fifth covering the time period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 – 1<sup>st</sup> August 2019.</p>	
<p>1. For each time period, how many applications for the following procedures were approved?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Cataracts;</li> <li>b. Knee replacement;</li> <li>c. Hip replacement;</li> <li>d. Vasectomy;</li> <li>e. Infertility.</li> </ul>	

## Approved Procedures

Infertility has been interpreted as procedures grouped under:

- Assisted Conception
- Assisted Conception - Sperm Retrieval
- Assisted Conception - Sperm storage
- Cryopreservation - Egg
- Cryopreservation – Embryo
- Cryopreservation - Ovarian Tissue
- Cryopreservation - Sperm
- Cryopreservation of Fertility

Knee replacement has been interpreted as

- Primary Knee Joint Replacement surgery
  - **Knee Revision Surgery has not been included**

Hip replacement has been interpreted as

- Primary Hip Joint Replacement surgery
- Hip Revision Surgery has not been included**

	1 <sup>st</sup> January 2015 – 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2015	1 <sup>st</sup> January 2016 – 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2016	1 <sup>st</sup> January 2017– 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2017	1 <sup>st</sup> January 2018 – 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2018;	1 <sup>st</sup> January 2019 – 1 <sup>st</sup> August 2019.
a) Cataracts;	*5 or less	*5 or less	* 10 or less	15	13
b) Knee replacement;	256	716	889	862	537
c) Hip replacement;	216	606	745	726	461

d) Vasectomy;	*5 or less	* 10 or less	*5 or less	* 10 or less	*5 or less
e) Infertility.	*5 or less	* 10 or less	*5 or less	* 10 or less	* 10 or less

**2. For each time period, how many applications for the following procedures were declined?**

- a. Cataracts;
- b. Knee replacement;
- c. Hip replacement;
- d. Vasectomy;
- e. Infertility
- f.

**Procedures that were declined**

	1 <sup>st</sup> January 2015 – 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2015	1 <sup>st</sup> January 2016 – 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2016	1 <sup>st</sup> January 2017– 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2017	1 <sup>st</sup> January 2018 – 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2018;	1 <sup>st</sup> January 2019 – 1 <sup>st</sup> August 2019.
a) Cataracts;	*5 or less	36	50	48	47
b) Knee replacement;	*5 or less	61	63	69	36
c) Hip replacement;	0	31	32	38	16

<b>d) Vasectomy;</b>	<b>*5 or less</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>*5 or less</b>
<b>e) Infertility.</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>* 10 or less</b>

\* Due to the low numbers provided in relation to this request, the CCG has replaced the figure with less than 10 or less than 5. This is to prevent the likelihood that a living individual could be identified by the release of the lower figures. We are not obliged, under [Section 40\(2\)](#) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), to provide information that is the personal information of another person if releasing would contravene any of the principles set out in article 5 of the GDPR. In this instance we believe that the release of this information would contravene the first principle (lawfulness, fairness and transparency) and therefore Section 40(2) is engaged.

***The information provided in this response is accurate as of 30 December 2019, and has been authorised for release by Robert Majilton, Deputy Chief Officer and Director of Sustainability & Transformation for NHS Buckinghamshire CCG.***