



*The* **ROYAL COLLEGE** *of*  
**OPHTHALMOLOGISTS**

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Annual Report 2022

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# From the President

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**Bernard YP Chang**  
President

The College has been working hard this year to raise the profile of Ophthalmology and promote standards of care.

The lifting of the final Covid restrictions this year brought new but equally daunting challenges. In particular, the backlog of patients who need our care has never been greater. Ophthalmology alone has over 600,000 patients waiting for treatment.

In England, we have continued working on the transformation of eyecare. I had the privilege of being on the panel that appointed the first National Clinical Director (NCD) for Eyecare in England. We would like to thank Louisa Wickham for taking on this demanding role. The RCOphth will be there to support our NCD with her vision and ongoing work.

This year we continued to push for improved collaboration between the NHS and the independent sector (IS) with regards to the provision of cataract surgery. Following the publication of a new NHS cataract specification, there is now an expectation that all NHS providers will offer cataract training and better access for patients. This includes those with more complex needs in the IS. Task and finish groups with representation from all sectors worked to further address some of the issues related to long term sustainability of eyecare services. This work concluded in December 2022 with further cataract contracting guidance aimed to address issues such as: non-contracted activity, conflicts of interest, ensuring patient choice is fully transparent and how to standardise the pathway and payment for post operative care.

We have been active with our policy team in trying to engage the health minister and his shadow minister counterpart. The latter culminated in a

useful meeting with the Labour health team which put us in good stead to build further relationships in the future.

Our work with 'The Eyes Have It' Group contributed to the All Parliamentary Party Group on Eye Health and Vision Impairment's call for more data and a national eye health strategy.

The RCOphth was acknowledged by the Welsh government for supporting the work of Andy Pyott who did a comprehensive review of the state of eyecare. This should lead to better investment in the workforce and infrastructure of eye departments.

In Scotland, we are involved in the development of their cataract surgery standards. We are aiming to help their eye units achieve better efficiencies.

Within the College we are in the process of embedding our four values (Improvement, Inclusion, Innovation and Integrity) into all that we do. We will have a new CEO and President from May 2023. We hope that using these values will help guide the College through this period of change.

Our CEO, Kathy Evans announced her retirement this year. She has ably led our College for over 18 years and guided the RCOphth finances for seven years before that and, on behalf of the College, I thank her for her excellent service. A working group of clinicians and lay trustees had been set up to appoint a worthy successor to lead the RCOphth through a new phase of development.

I also want to take the opportunity to congratulate Ben Burton on his election as our next President. He can be assured that he will have a great team to support and guide him.



# From the President

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I want to thank all the College staff and everyone of you who has contributed your valuable time working in our committees and subcommittees, especially the chairs. My heartfelt appreciation to you, our members here and overseas. The College can only function because of your continued support.

Finally, as this is my last annual report, I want to express my gratitude for everyone's support throughout my presidency. It has been an incredible honour to serve you.

**Bernard YP Chang**

President



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(continued)

Annual Report 2022

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## From the Chief Executive



**Kathy Evans**  
Chief Executive

The College is, in essence, about people and information and in 2022 the RCOphth has tried to get back to normal, whilst building on the lessons learned in the pandemic. A few specific date points illustrate some of the work undertaken:

- In February, we overhauled the way Academic Ophthalmic Research is presented on the RCOphth website to encourage ophthalmologists to participate in and contribute to clinical research as part of their core activity
- Ophthalmology is a very popular specialty. National Recruitment took place virtually in March; there were over 700 applicants, 230 interviews were offered, 120 appointable candidates for 66 posts. Since March the number of training posts have increased but we continue to argue that as patient need increases, more training posts are required
- In May, we held a hybrid Congress in Glasgow, our major opportunity to disseminate information. 1,425 delegates registered from 37 countries; 44% of delegates attended in person, 56% of delegates attended virtually and 91% of all delegates rated the programme good or excellent. In addition, the Scientific and Events team delivered a series of well-attended, informative seminars through-out the year
- The National Ophthalmology Database (NOD) team continued to run the well-respected Cataract Audit and in May was able to carry out the first full data extraction of the Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD) audit. This provided data for 20,000 treatment naïve eyes and demonstrated some variation in processes and outcomes, useful information that will be further analysed in the coming year
- In June, we reported on the continued success of the Eye journal and the upward trajectory of its impact factor, in 5 years it has gone from 2.28 to 4.64
- INSPIRE, the learning platform designed to stimulate and support the development of ophthalmologists and colleagues in eye care, was launched in October. Multi-media materials cover the whole clinical spectrum and the project has required sustained effort from the Education team and a complex system of editors, trainee editors and contributors
- The Membership team started preparations to elect the next President early in 2022 and when voting opened in November, the seven candidates had produced written election statements and videos and had submitted declaration of interest forms. For the first time there was a hustings event, posted to the website. Ben Burton was elected and will take office at the May 2023 AGM.
- During November and December, the Policy and Comms team ran an ophthalmology workforce census.

Other on-going work continued, such as:

- The Examinations team continued to deliver high-quality, robust examinations in the UK through-out 2022. For the first time they have also run examinations in Egypt and Trinidad and Tobago, resumed diets in Singapore and, after many years, ran exams in India. The number of candidates sitting the written elements of FRCOphth Part 1 and Part 2 has dramatically increased now that the papers can be taken remotely and candidates are coming from all parts of the globe.



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# From the Chief Executive

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- The Training team has worked on Curriculum 2024, the new Ophthalmic Specialist Training curriculum, and has been assiduous in keeping trainees and trainers apprised of developments.
- The Quality & Standard team has produced guidance on safety alerts, drug shortages and unexpected responses to cataract surgery. It has responded to tariff consultations and worked with the Getting it Right First Time (GIRFT) to improve services.
- Work on the Culture Review project which started in 2021 continued during the year and in July the Trustee Board formally adopted the values of **Inclusion, Integrity, Innovation and Improvement**.

The values are underpinned by a set of behaviours; the College lives and demonstrates its values by being:

**Adaptable:** working to deliver on its aims and plans while being adaptable and responsive

**Collaborative:** working together as equal partners across the College; working productively with stakeholders

**Decisive:** making timely decisions based on consultation with stakeholders

**Respectful:** empowering people to express a diversity of views; treating those views considerately

**Trusted:** engendering a climate of trust in how it works so that stakeholders view the College as reliable and credible

**Sustainable:** adopting policies and practices that help the College, its communities and stakeholders be viable and resilient.

The next phase of the project is to embed these behaviours in day to day work and a specific task is to improve induction processes for staff and clinicians taking on new roles.

Behind the scenes, the staff have carried out the HR and finance functions, maintained the premises and developed our IT infrastructure. We have regularly communicated with members via Eye Mail and College News and supported CESR and Dual Sponsorship applicants.

This will be my last annual report as Chief Executive. Thank you to all my colleagues and to the members for their support, kindness and dedication and for making this a very interesting and coveted role.

**Kathy Evans**  
Chief Executive



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**NHS**

## Workforce Planning and Partnerships

Worked with organisations across the sector to call for independent NHS workforce forecasting, culminating in the Government commitment to developing a 'comprehensive workforce plan' which includes independently-verified forecasts for the number of doctors, nurses and other professionals that will be needed in 5, 10 and 15 years.



## RCOphth Census

At the end of 2022, a survey to all members was circulated for the first RCOphth workforce census since 2018. This survey questioned all members, with a particular focus on consultants, SAS doctors, trainees, and clinical leads, to provide a picture of the current ophthalmology workforce.



## The Independent Sector

In August, RCOphth published analysis of the key trends in cataract surgery in England, highlighting their growth from around a third in 2019 to around half in 2022.

The College contributed to the publication of a cataract service specification for independent provision, including training provision by independent providers and led task and finish groups with NHS England to deliver a blueprint for cataract training in the independent sector and further NHS England guidance.



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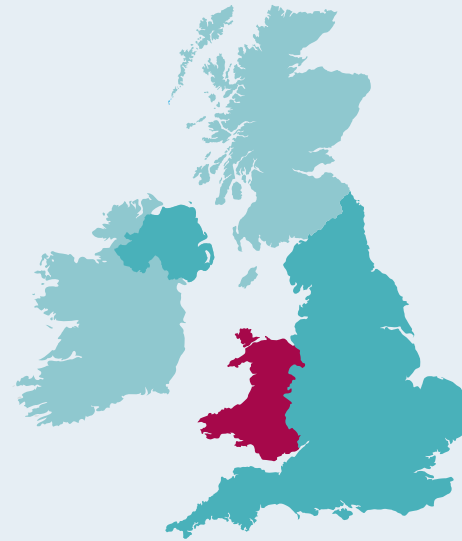
Influencing National  
Health Policy

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## Engaging Scottish politicians to develop cataract pathways

In 2022 the first-ever Holyrood Eye Health Day was held in the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh. This opportunity was used to highlight where services in Scotland could be improved, leading to RCOphth's involvement in the development of high-volume cataract pathways in Scotland.



## Pyott Report ensuring Wales leads the way in integrated services

The Pyott report made key recommendations to ensure that eye care services in Wales are sustainable. In the report, it is recognised that patient demographics, the ophthalmic workforce shortfall and location of services present serious challenges for eye care services in Wales. The initial report findings precipitated further government support with a commissioning of a blueprint in 2022.

[Read Gwyn Williams' reflection on the Pyott Report](#)

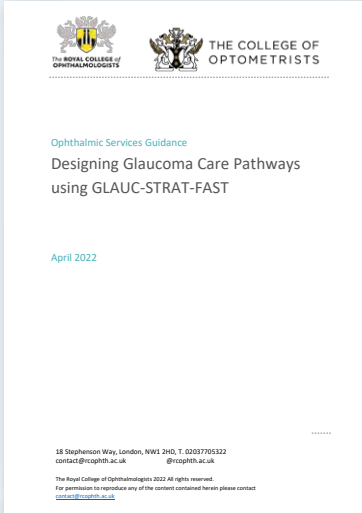


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Devolved Nations

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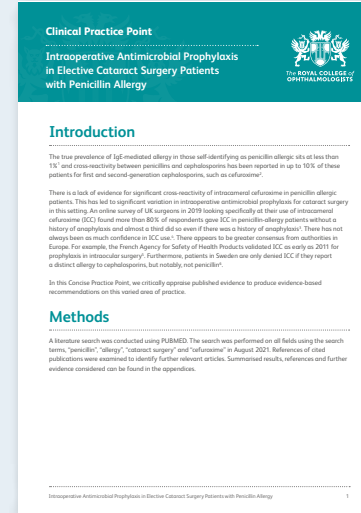
## Glauc-Strat-Fast Care Pathways

Glaucoma services should be developed using robust risk stratification using this guidance from the RCOphth, UKEGS (UK and Éire Glaucoma Society) and the College of Optometrists.



## Interoperability of digital systems

RCOphth brought together clinicians and healthcare professionals, patient groups and the manufacturing industry to drive consensus for improvement in the interoperability of digital systems and diagnostic analysis by end-users will deliver efficient and high-quality patient care.



## Concise Practice Points

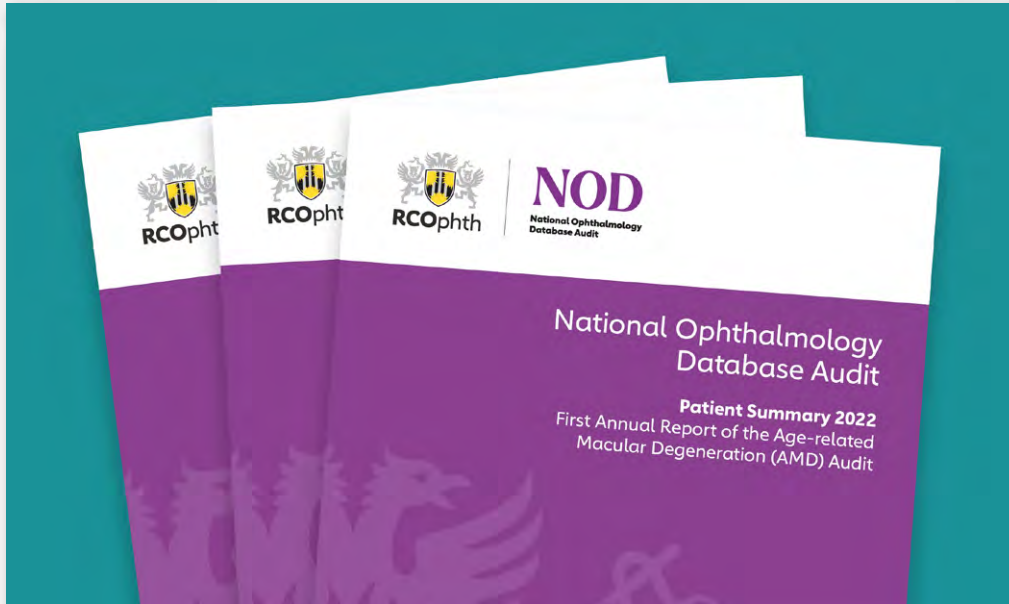
Concise Practice Points developed by the RCOphth are short documents that focus on individual elements or a combination of elements of patient care where there is recognised uncertainty and they make recommendations for less frequent and targeted clinical situations.



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Quality & Safety  
Standards

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## NOD

Overall the audit findings indicate high-quality cataract surgery is being delivered to NHS patients with a continuation in the trend seen over the past decade towards improvement. By 2020, the number of cataract surgeries was reduced to approximately 246,000 in England and 5,700 in Wales, due to COVID 19 service disruption, cancellations and national lockdowns.



**NOD**  
National Ophthalmology  
Database Audit



## AMD

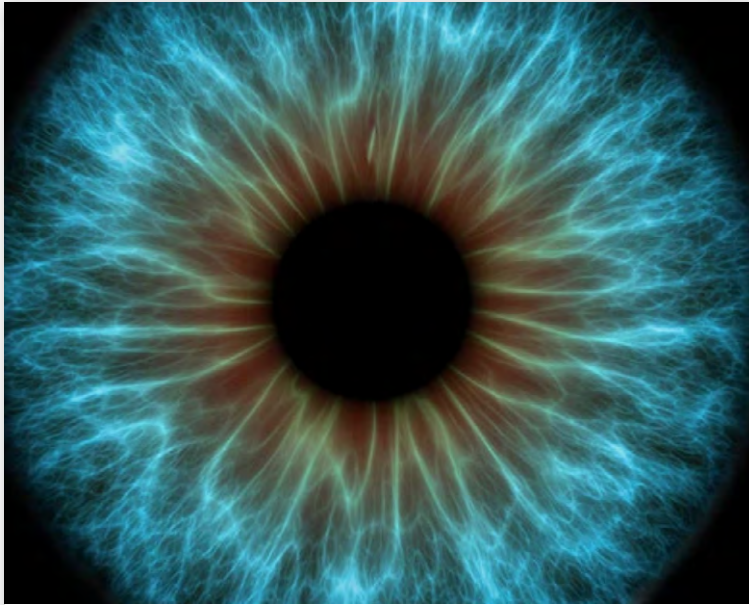
NOD Age related macular degeneration launches with a request for more units to take part in the first data submission.



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Clinical Audits

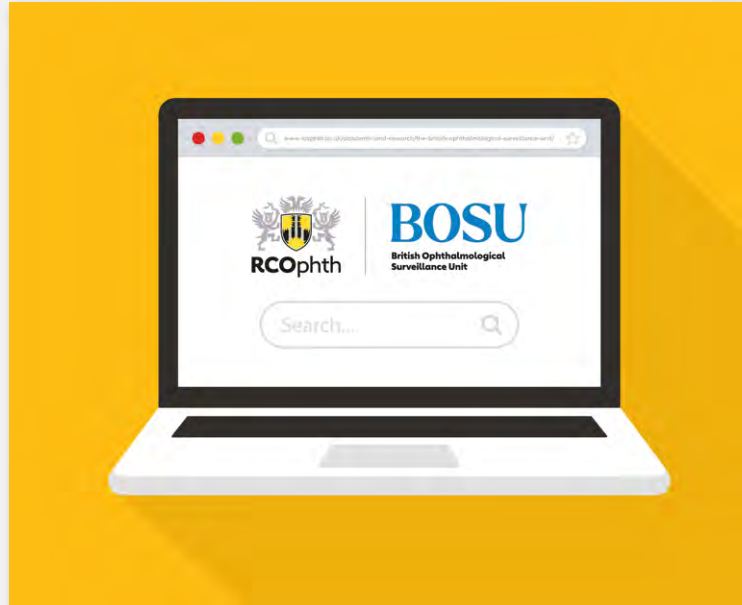
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## Eye Journal

The current impact factor is 4.456 (2020 Journal Citation Reports® Science Edition (Clarivate Analytics, 2021)). The website receives 3 million visitors to the Eye website each year.

- Eye is one of only very small number of journals who continued to see an increase in submissions in 2022 post-COVID
- Editorial article, 'Ophthalmic manifestations of monkeypox virus' was the most downloaded and most cited article in 2022
- Online Collection – '**Research Methodology for the Ophthalmologist**' is a collection of Editorials put together to aid ophthalmologists in interpreting evidence from medical literature. They have been very well received and many feature in the top 15 most downloaded articles of 2022



## BOSU

The **British Ophthalmological Surveillance Unit** celebrated 25 years, of over 80 high impact studies of excellent quality that have broadened knowledge and understanding and brought benefit for patients across ophthalmic subspecialties and demographics.



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Research

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**RCOphth**

## Curriculum 2024

### Curriculum 2024

The GMC approved the new OST curriculum and a comprehensive implementation plan has been developed, including engagement with the training community, pilot programmes, regular communications and a dedicated space on the RCOphth website.



### Innovation in Surgical Skills and Learning

A recent RCOphth Cataract Surgery Complications course was the setting for the world's first surgical skills course in a dry-lab environment where trainees watched surgical techniques being demonstrated live, in 3D.



### GMC National Training Survey 2022

Vishal Shah, National Medical Director's Clinical Fellow, RCOphth and South London representative for the Ophthalmologists in Training Group, and Jordan Marshall, RCOphth Policy Manager, summarise the key findings from the GMC's wide-ranging 2022 National Training Survey.



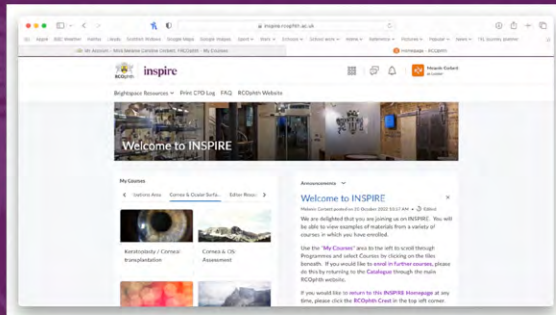
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Trainees & Training

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## Accessing and Navigating INSPIRE



### Inspire

The new lifelong learning platform launched in October 2022. A dynamic learning environment with 26 Programmes across the areas of Clinical Knowledge, Professional Development and Personal Development.

Multi-media materials cover the whole clinical spectrum, from Fundamental Eye Care for medical students or ophthalmic practitioners to new breakthroughs and techniques for specialists in their field. It also provides personal development tailored to each step of your career, and professional development focused on each of your roles (see table). It truly has something for everyone.



### Awards & Prizes

Congratulations to the award winners:

#### Ulverscroft David Owen Prize

Dr Sohaib Riyaz Rufai  
and colleagues

#### Nettleship Medal

Professor Gus Gazzard

#### Glaucoma UK/RCOphth Research Award

Professor Anthony King  
Professor Colin Willoughby

#### Dorey/Lister Travel Award 30th Anniversary

Shiama Balendra  
Laura Hughes  
Matthew Kuet

#### Patrick Trevor Roper

Undergraduate Travel Award  
25th Anniversary

Rishikesh Gandhewar

Qayim Kaba

Katherine Rennie

Neel Vyas

Ethan Waisberg

Jingwen Zhang

#### Essay Prize for

Foundation Doctors

Rishikesh Gandhewar

(Joint) Louise Darwich

and Jonathan Lai

Jonathan Malcom



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Education

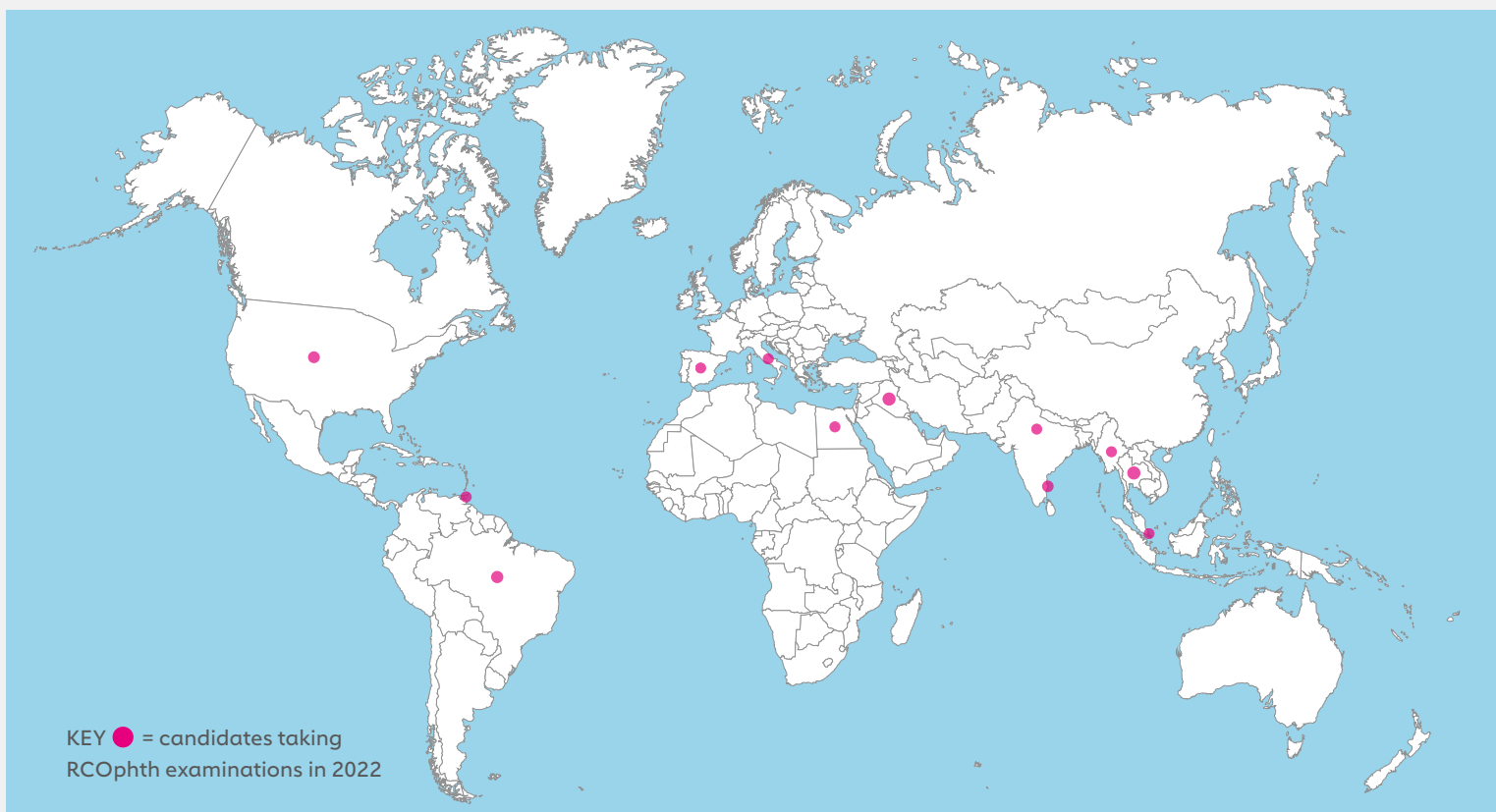
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## Examinations

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The online written exams successfully grew and 50% of candidates are from overseas, including countries with first time candidates from Brazil, Thailand, Myanmar, Italy, Spain, USA.

2022 was the first year that RCOphth ran the whole suite of new overseas exams. See map.

- January 2022 – Refraction Certificate and Part 2 FRCOphth Oral in Singapore
- March 2022 – Refraction Certificate and Part 2 FRCOphth Oral in Trinidad and Tobago
- April 2022 – Refraction Certificate in Cairo, Egypt

- May 2022 – Refraction Certificate in New Delhi, India
- October 2022 – Part 2 FRCOphth Oral in Chennai, India
- November 2022 – Refraction Certificate and Part 2 FRCOphth Oral in Cairo, Egypt

Dr Sadhu Ram Gupta (MBE) Award for International (non-UK) candidates.

Congratulations to the second winner, Dr Yasser Al-Rubiay from Baghdad, Iraq, having achieved the highest score in the November 2022 Part 2 Oral exam in Cairo.

In the UK, the Examinations department ran 12 exams, reaching over 2,200 candidates.\*

### Total candidates in the UK

Part 1 FRCOphth (3 exams)	781
Refraction Certificate (3 exams)	268
Part 2 FRCOphth Written (2 exams)	394
Part 2 FRCOphth Oral (2 exams)	241
Cert LRS (1 exam)	29
Duke Elder (1 exam)	515

\*Some of the written exams reached candidates outside of the UK.



**1,428**  
delegates attended  
Congress (627 in person)



**90.5%**  
rated the programme  
good or excellent



Delegates from  
**37**  
countries



Over  
**80**  
hours of content  
overall

**260**  
speakers from  
14 countries



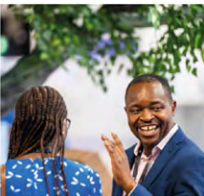
**42**  
exhibitors



Look out for Congress  
downloadable content  
on [rcophth.ac.uk](http://rcophth.ac.uk)



**783**  
questions raised by  
delegates across the  
sessions



## Congress

Congress 2022 was a successful hybrid event.

## Seminars and Surgical Skills Courses

16 seminars were run in 2022 by the Scientific committee.

Training ran 12 Introduction to Ophthalmic Surgery courses, eight Introduction to Phacoemulsification courses and seven curriculum based courses.

The Glaucoma Simulated Surgery skills course was a first at the RCOphth, followed by satellite sites in Colchester, Glasgow and Torbay. Two sessions of the Capsulorhexis Masterclass with Uday Devgan ran at Congress 2022.



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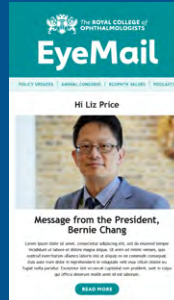
Events

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## College News

College News continues to keep members updated with news from across the eye sector community. The popular FOCUS articles can be found on the RCOphth website



## Eyemail

Eyemail has a 53% open rate and an average clicked through rate of 9%.

6,599  
followers

7,306  
followers

11,038  
followers

## Social Media

Following on our social media channels continue to grow and our website had a total of **189,435** visitors.



## Eye to Eye

A podcast from  
The Royal College  
of Ophthalmologists

## Podcasts

Eye to Eye Podcasts grow listeners with interesting topics and speakers.



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Keeping members  
informed

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## Radio 4, In Touch

College Joint Honorary Secretary, Mel Hingorani was interviewed about the Westminster Eye Health Day 19 October 2022, raising awareness of the workforce and patient crisis in the hospital eye services.



## Gwyn Williams, RCOphth Wales, speaks to the BBC

In a recent interview with BBC Wales, Gwyn Williams warned that a 'tide of avoidable blindness' could sweep Wales if eye care services are not reformed. He went on to say that waits for key treatments were 'the biggest they've ever been'.



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In the News  
highlights

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OPTOMETRY  
TOMORROW  
2022

The Telford International Centre  
19-20 June 2022  
[optometrytomorrow.org](http://optometrytomorrow.org)



## RCOphth President, Bernie Chang makes media appearances

Gives the keynote speech, The George Giles Memorial Lecture, on integrated care at Optometry Tomorrow 2022 in June.

## OPTICIAN

CAREER-LONG SUPPORT FOR OPTICAL PROFESSIONALS

Guest speaker on a HSJ panel about the backlog crisis in July.



RCOphth President joins a panel of experts to discuss the findings from the Specsavers State of the UK's Eye Health 2022 report in October.



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In the News  
highlights  
(continued)

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## The Eyes Have It Partnership

As part of TEHI partnership, the policy team has worked with TEHI partners, including RNIB, AOP, the Macular Society, Fight for Sight and funded by Roche to develop a number of activities and health policy influencing.



## Working with partners and members to champion integration

RCOphth produced a set of case studies on integration of primary and secondary eyecare services, in collaboration with members, in Lancashire and South Cumbria and North East England respectively.

[www.rcophth.ac.uk/news-views/reducing-the-postcode-lottery-by-standardising-pathways-a-system-approach-to-integrated-care-in-lancashire-and-south-cumbria](http://www.rcophth.ac.uk/news-views/reducing-the-postcode-lottery-by-standardising-pathways-a-system-approach-to-integrated-care-in-lancashire-and-south-cumbria)

Alongside this work, the College produced a joint statement with the College of Optometrists calling for better integration of services, including through standardisation of imaging.

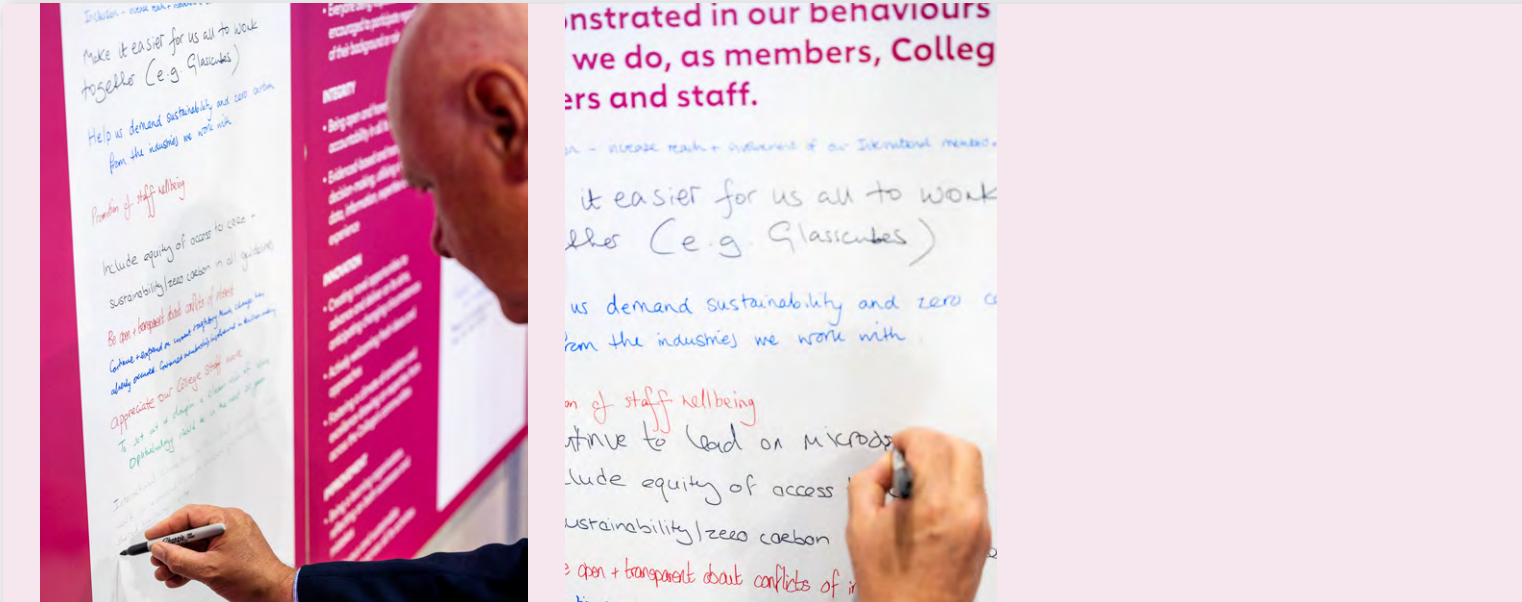
The Policy team responds to inquiries and consultations from national health bodies, including government such as the inquiry into backlogs and waiting times.



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In the News  
highlights  
(continued)

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The College carried out a culture review in consultation with members and staff through workshops and in development with the steering group.

We launched four values: Inclusion, Integrity, Innovation and Improvement.

Members were asked to provide their ideas and comments on the Values Board at Congress 2022.



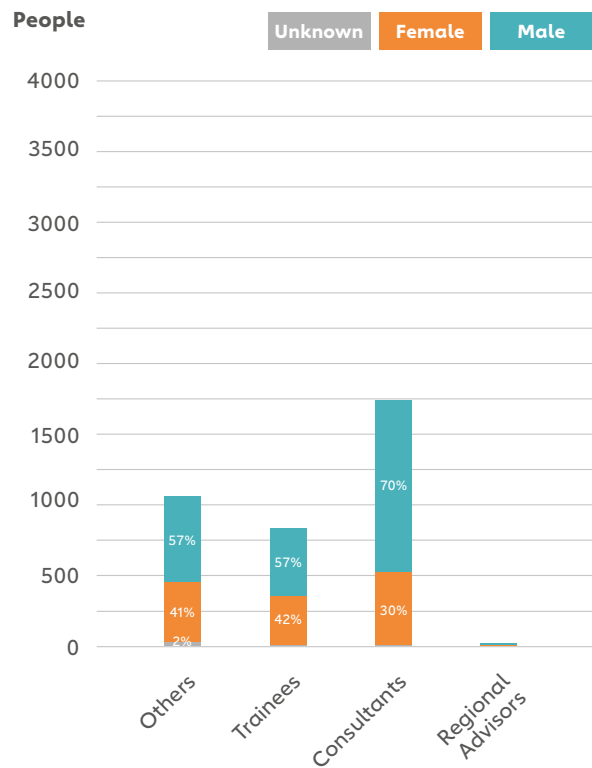
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## Values, Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

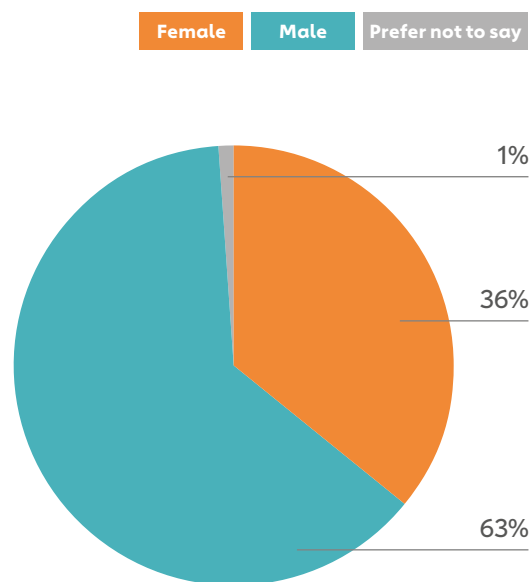
\*All reporting is reliant on members providing their profile data.

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# Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Report 2022



Total membership by gender



All membership by gender

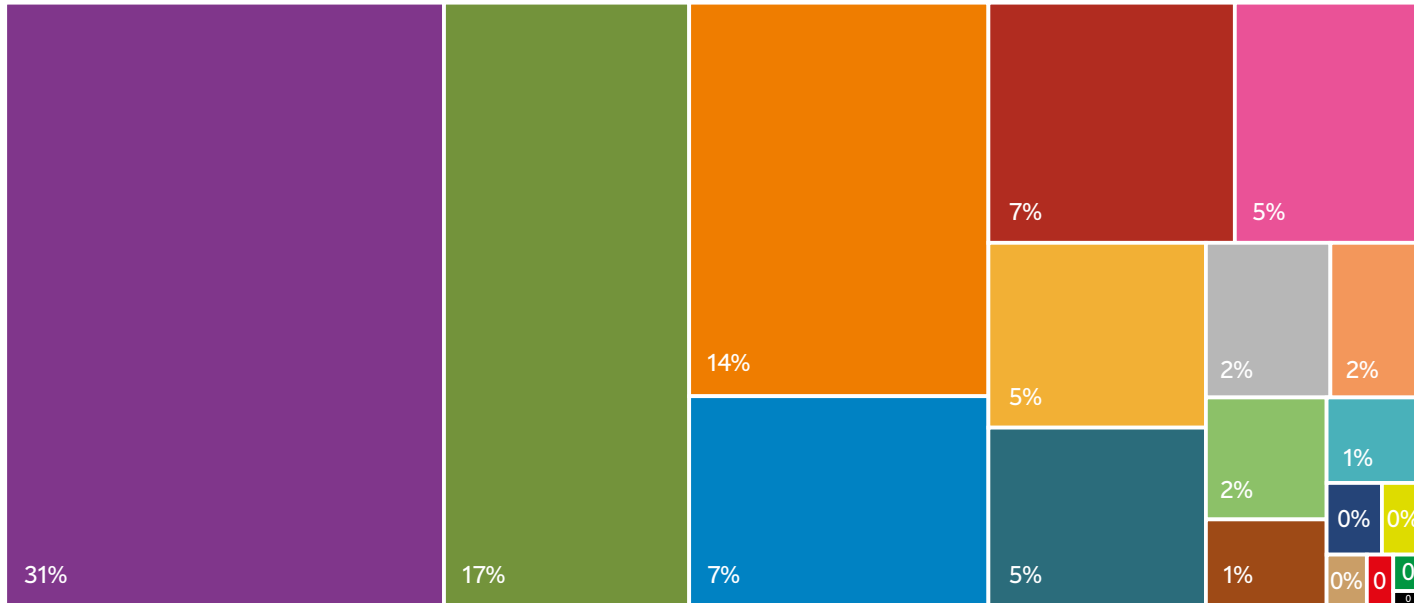


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Equality, Diversity  
& Inclusion Report  
(continued)

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# Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Report 2022



- White English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British
- White Irish
- White or Irish Traveller
- Any other White background
- White and Black Caribbean
- White and Black African
- White and Asian
- Any other Mixed / Multiple ethnic background
- Asian / Asian British / Indian
- Asian / Asian British / Pakistani
- Asian / Asian British / Bangladeshi
- Asian / Asian British / Chinese
- Any other Asian background
- Black / African / Caribbean / Black British / African
- Black / African / Caribbean / Black British / Caribbean
- Any other Black / African / Caribbean background
- Arab
- Any other ethnic group
- Prefer not to say

**Total membership ethnicity**

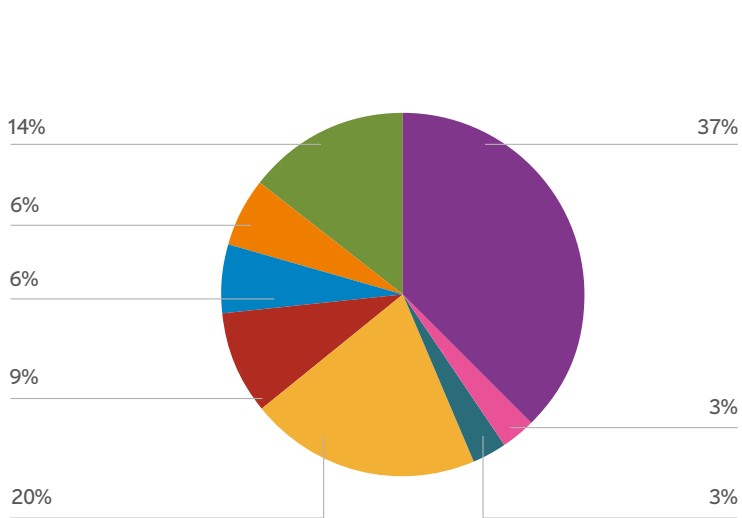


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Equality, Diversity  
& Inclusion Report  
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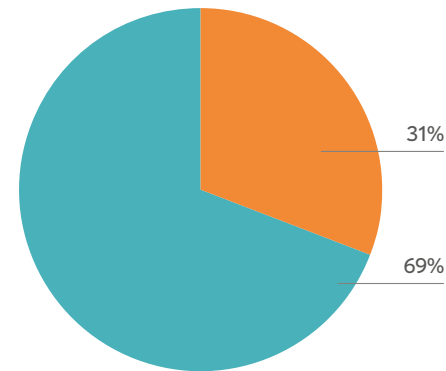
# Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Report 2022



**Council member ethnicity**

- White English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British
- White Irish
- Any other White background
- Asian / Asian British / Indian
- Asian / Asian British / Pakistani
- Asian / Asian British / Chinese
- Any other Asian background
- Prefer not to say

Female Male



**Council members by gender**



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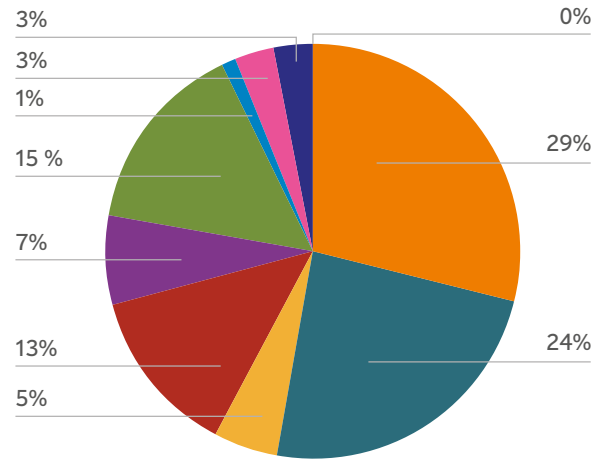
Equality, Diversity  
& Inclusion Report  
(continued)

Annual Report 2022



# Income 2022

	2022 £'000s	2021 £'000s
Subscriptions	1,598	1,531
Examinations	1,348	1,127
Educations and Training (inc. Skills Courses)	283	277
Professional Support (inc. Congress)	700	346
National Ophthalmic Database	378	773
Eye journal – joint venture	851	774
Scholarships and Awards	16	68
BOSU	32	17
Other trading activities	176	100
Investments	148	124
<b>Total income</b>	<b>5,530</b>	<b>5,137</b>



- Subscriptions
- Examinations
- Education and Training (inc. Skills Courses)
- Professional Support (inc. Congress)
- National Ophthalmic Database
- Eye journal – joint venture
- Scholarships and Awards
- BOSU
- Other trading activities
- Investments



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## Financial Report

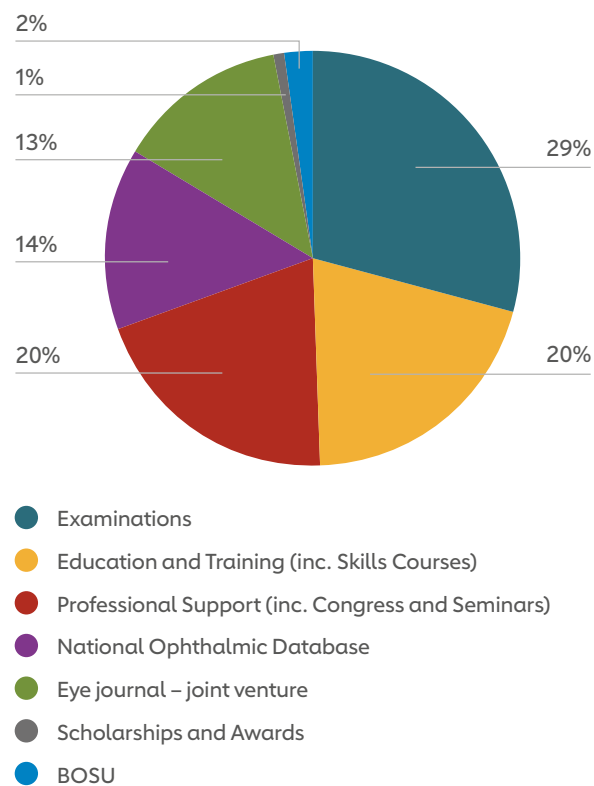
Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2022

Annual Report 2022



# Expenditure 2022

	2022 £'000s	2021 £'000s
Examinations	1,638	1,432
Education and Training (inc. Skills Courses)	1,144	1,110
Professional Support (inc. Congress)	1,110	767
National Ophthalmic Database	798	496
Eye journal – joint venture	742	691
Scholarships and Awards	57	111
BOSU	130	143
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>5,620</b>	<b>4,750</b>
<b>Gains / (Losses ) on Investments</b>	<b>(514)</b>	195
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>(604)</b>	582
<b>Funds brought forward</b>	<b>13,144</b>	12,562
<b>Funds carried forward</b>	<b>12,540</b>	13,144



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## Financial Report

Statement of financial  
activities for the year ended  
31 December 2022

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We would like to thank all our Standing Chairs, College Officers, Regional Representatives, Regional and Educational Leads, Trainers, Examiners and all members on committees, groups and project teams and staff that have continued to work throughout 2022 under continuing challenging circumstances.

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Thank You

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