



Tuesday 19 May 2026 11.30 – 12.30 Cataract services – who are they serving?

Chaired by John Buchan (Associate Prof, International Centre for Eye Health, LSHTM, Consultant Ophthalmologist Leeds TH NHS Trust, NOD Cataract Audit Clinical Lead) There continues to be wide variation in cataract service delivery practices across the UK, with no emerging consensus on what model delivers the best care for patients. High-Volume Low-Complexity lists in units that focus solely on cataract service provision, such as those in the English Independent Sector or Scottish National Treatment Centres, seem to be very effective at doing what they are doing. However, the exodus of low-complexity cataract work from the traditional NHS comprehensive ophthalmology service providers, who also carry the main training burden, creates potential problems for consultants and trainees alike, and evidence is clear that low-volume surgeons, both resident and consultant, create more complications for patients. This session aims to explore some of the issues around this issue of live debate.

12.30 – 12.45 What have we learned from the RCOphth National Ophthalmology Database Cataract Audit?

Paul Donachie – RCOphth NOD Lead Statistician

12.45 – 13.00 Cataract Surgical Training - Is it optimal, is it equitable, and are we effectively protecting patients from the learning curve?

John Buchan

13.00 – 13.20 Public service and private profit: results of NIHR mixed methods study of cataract surgery in England

Gemma Stringer, Research Fellow, University of Manchester, Michael Anderson, NIHR Research Fellow, University of Manchester & Prof Kieran Walshe - Professor of Health Policy and Management, University of Manchester

13.20 – 13.30 Panel Q&A