

# General Ophthalmic Services Quarterly Series to Q3 2023/24 (2023/24 Figures Provisional)

**Claims Submitted and Paid by BSO** There were **186,721** claims (inc sight tests, vouchers, repairs/replacements, LES I, LES II, NI PEARS and OHT) submitted and paid during quarter 3 of 2023/24:  
 ↑ **1.6%** on the previous quarter      ↑ **1.3%** on the same quarter last year



**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.

**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.

There were **118,479** sight tests paid for by BSO during quarter 3 of 2023/24, including domiciliary tests.

↑  
An increase of **1.4%** on the previous quarter.

↑  
An increase of **2.7%** on the same quarter in 2022/23.

In quarter 3 of 2023/24 there were **4,505** domiciliary sight tests paid for by BSO.

↑  
An increase of **19.3%** from the previous quarter.

↑  
An increase of **17.0%** on the same quarter last year.

**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. 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 **45,640** vouchers paid for during quarter 3 of 2023/24:  
 ↑ **2.0%** on the previous quarter  
 ↓ **2.4%** on the same quarter in 2022/23

There were **9,111** repairs/replacements paid for during quarter 3 of 2023/24:  
 ↓ **3.5%** on the previous quarter  
 ↓ **2.2%** 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 December 2023 there were **265** Ophthalmic Practices, **3** OMPs and **674** Optometrists registered in NI.

**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 3 of 2023/24, BSO made payments for:

- **323 LES I** assessments, ↓ **1.5%** on the same quarter last year.
- **131 LES II** assessments, ↑ **12.0%** on the same quarter last year.
- **476 OHT** assessments, ↑ **21.1%** on the same quarter last year.
- **12,561 NI PEARS** assessments, ↑ **3.7%** 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 **£5.67m** during October - December 2023

↑  
Payments made up **0.5%** on the previous quarter.

↑  
Payments made up **3.3%** on the same quarter in 2022/23.