

Ref. No: 2564
Date: 8th May 2026
Subject: Ophthalmic support staff education and training

REQUEST and RESPONSE

This FOI request is for information about the numbers of ophthalmic support staff working in Eye / Ophthalmology departments in NHS Hospitals, their pay scales and their education and training. We request that you enter information into the attached table.

Job title* (specify)	No of staff	Pay bands (state 2, 3, 4 etc)	Education and training** Please ✓ or add details as appropriate	
Ophthalmic Technician	15	Band 3	In house	Induction training Includes Visual Acuity Chaperone Administration of eye drops Eye cleaning and dressing icare Humphery visual fields
			CPD	
			External course, include title and course provider	Non-contact Biometry
			Other (please describe)	
Ophthalmic Associates	2	Band 4	In house	Visual Acuity Administration of eye drops Eye cleaning and dressing Icare Pupillary check SAC washout Humphery visual fields Epilation FFA clinic
			CPD	OCT/OPTOS imaging: Moorfields, University of Gloucester.
			External course, include title and course provider	Non-contact biometry IV cannulation Slit lamp course: Moorfields
			Other (please describe)	

Ophthalmic support staff are not registered professionals and have a range of job titles. The list below is not inclusive, and the job titles may include “Senior”, “Clinical” and “Healthcare Science”

Healthcare Assistant

Ophthalmic Assistant

Orthoptic Assistant

Ophthalmic Technician

Ophthalmic Science Practitioner

Ophthalmic Associate Practitioner

Ophthalmic Assistant Practitioner