



## **NHS confirms that GOS will remain a national service when the Health and Care Bill becomes law**

General Ophthalmic Services (GOS) in England will remain a national demand-led service under a nationally agreed GOS contract and nationally negotiated fees and grants, with no local variation.

This was confirmed by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and NHS England & NHS Improvement (NHSE-I) on Friday 10 December at a meeting with optical bodies to discuss the Health and Care Bill (currently before Parliament).

As part of the bill, Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) will replace Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs). Under the new structure NHS England will devolve the management of GOS contracts to ICBs. However, this will simply be about contract management, GOS itself will be without local variation.

The Bill also introduces a new commissioning framework for local services known as the Provider Selection Regime (PSR). Optical bodies have agreed to work collaboratively with NHS England to help ensure the PSR helps ICBs understand the Primary Ophthalmic Services (POS) framework and enables them to make the best use of extended primary eye care services for the benefit of patients and the wider NHS.

**Ends**

### **Notes for Editors**

The optical bodies attending the meeting on 10 December were OFNC members ABDO, AOP and FODO, together with The College of Optometrists and LOCSU.