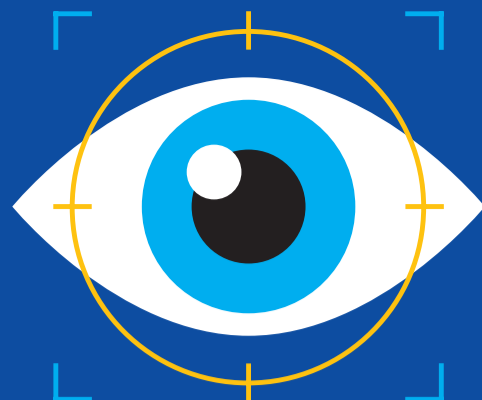
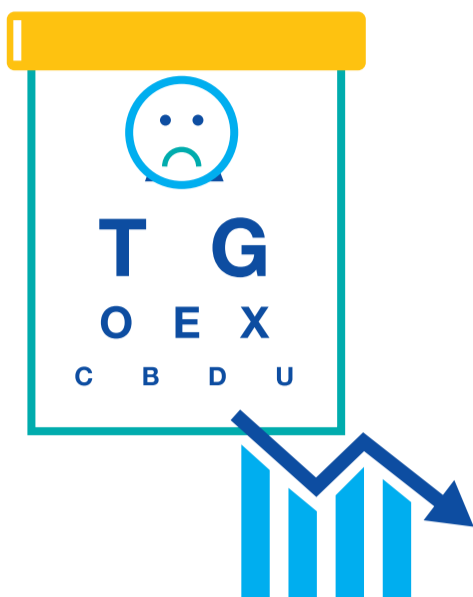


# > 1m people in the UK live with avoidable sight loss<sup>1</sup>



Pre-pandemic, around **22 patients** a month suffered severe or permanent sight loss as a result of healthcare delays.<sup>2</sup>



## Since COVID-19...<sup>3</sup>

- **3 in 4 (73%)** say their access to treatment is worse
- **> 1/2 (57%)** experienced difficulties accessing care
- **4/10 (39%)** fear their eyesight will deteriorate due to the reduced access to treatment
- It is estimated that for **every 100 people** aged 50 to 54 with probable glaucoma who are treated up to a year late, **5 more** will progress early to moderate visual impairment

Figures based on Kaleidoscope Research, on behalf of Fight for Sight, and Fight for Sight surveys of almost 800 people living with eye condition, their families and carers and prevalence-based economic model by London School of Economics and Political Science, on behalf of Fight for Sight.

## The cost is already too high...<sup>3</sup>

- Visual impairment and its wider consequences cost the UK **£25.2 billion a year**
- This is estimated to rise to **£33.5 billion / year** by 2050
- Of which, **£3.9 billion** are direct costs to the NHS and social care
- In 2050, it is predicted that **3.5 million** people in the UK will live with sight loss



Figures based on comprehensive systematic literature review and prevalence-based economic model developed by London School of Economics and Political Science, on behalf of Fight for Sight.



## We face an enormous challenge. But...<sup>3</sup>

- If we reduce the prevalence of eye conditions by just **1% / year**, we could make a cumulative saving to the UK economy of up to **£9.5 billion** by 2050
- This would save NHS and social care services a potential **£1.5 billion** by 2050
- In the case of glaucoma, reducing prevalence by **1% / year** could save **> £325 million** by 2050

Figures based on economic model developed by London School of Economics and Political Science, on behalf of Fight for Sight.

## Demand is higher than ever...<sup>3</sup>

- Eye services account for **1 in 10** of all hospital outpatient appointments
- Ophthalmology appointments make up the **highest number** of all NHS attendances in England (2018/19)

Based on Royal College of Ophthalmologists and NHS Digital data, as reported by Fight for Sight.



## We must invest in and evolve eye services...<sup>3</sup>

- Investment in eye health is **1.5%** of the country's medical research budget\*
- That equates to just **£9.60** for each person with sight loss\*\*
- Fight for Sight, *Time to Focus*, report is calling for investment in eye medical research to **double**

\*(Combining UK Research and Innovation, government, charities and other public bodies).

\*\*Calculated from UK Health Research Analysis 2018 (UK Clinical Research Collaboration, 2020), as reported by Fight for Sight

### References:

- 1 Association of Optometrists, Over one million people with avoidable sight loss. Last accessed February 2021. Available at: <https://www.aop.org.uk/our-voice/campaigns/celebrate-your-sight-campaign/avoidable-sight-loss>
- 2 Healthcare Safety Investigation Branch, Lack of timely monitoring of patients with glaucoma. Last accessed December 2020. Available at: <https://www.hsi.org.uk/investigations-cases/lack-timely-monitoring-patients-glaucoma/>
- 3 Fight for Sight, *Time to Focus*, 2020. Last accessed October 2020. Available at: <https://www.fightforsight.org.uk/media/3302/time-to-focus-report.pdf>

