

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 24-019

NECS – John Snow House
Durham University Science Park
Durham
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Tel: 0191 301 1300
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By Email

15 April 2024

Dear Applicant

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information – NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB)

Thank you for your request received by North of England Commissioning Support (NECS) on 8 April 2024 for information held by NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB) under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

NENC ICB covers the areas of County Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Cumbria, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland, and Tees Valley (which covers the 5 councils that make it up – Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees).

Please find the information you requested on behalf of the ICB as follows.

Your Request

I am looking for some information to be answered under the Freedom of Information Act relating to the Additional roles reimbursement scheme (ARRS) underspend for 2023/24 which Primary Care Networks (PCNs) are able to bid for as per the Network DES 2023/24 point 7.5.5.

My questions are as below:

1. What is the total ARRS allocation sum for the PCNs in your ICB?
2. How many PCNs are in your ICB?
3. How much ARRS underspend has the ICB recorded in its footprint?
4. Does the ICB intend to reallocate this money to PCNs? If not, why not?
5. How many bids did the ICB receive for this money?
6. On average, how much money did each bid ask for?
7. Can you share the bid documents with us in a way to account for the large file size?
8. How many of these bids were successful? As a number and a percentage.
9. How much money will be redistributed?
10. When will this money be redistributed?
11. If the money is not redistributed, what will it be used for?

I look forward to hearing back within the statutory 20 working day period.

Please do contact me if you require any clarification about this data request.

Our Response

We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB holds some of the information you requested.

1. Total ARRS budget for 2023/24 is £76,429k, of which £48,211k was directly received by the ICB, the remaining £28,218k held by NHS England until required.
2. In 2023/24 NENC had 67 PCNs.
3. NENC ICB has not yet received / processed all PCN claims for 2023/24 however, the forecast underspend is £6,976k, which is retained by NHS England.
4. In August 2023, (despite this still being detailed in the 2023/24 Network Contract DES) NHS England advised that this redistribution process would not be undertaken to ensure future sustainability of the scheme and PCNs. As per question 3 above, underspend is retained by NHS England. In accordance with our duty under s.16 of the FOIA to provide reasonable advice and assistance to an individual requesting information, the email address for NHS England FOI requests is england.contactus@nhs.net. Please write "Freedom of Information" in the subject line.
5. Please refer to the response to question 4.
6. Please refer to the response to question 4.
7. Please refer to the response to question 4.
8. Please refer to the response to question 4.
9. Please refer to the response to question 4.
10. Please refer to the response to question 4.
11. Any remaining funding is held by NHS England nationally; they may be able to advise further.

In accordance with the Information Commissioner's directive on the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 your request will form part of our disclosure log. Therefore, a version of our response which will protect your anonymity will be posted on the NHS ICB website <https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/>.

If you have any queries or wish to discuss the information supplied, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above telephone number or at the above address.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to request a review of our decision, you should write to the Senior Governance Manager using the contact details at the top of this letter quoting the appropriate reference number.

If you are not content with the outcome your review, you do have the right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Generally, the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the North of England Commissioning Support Unit.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane

Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

www.ico.org.uk

Any information we provide following your request under the Freedom of Information Act will not confer an automatic right for you to re-use that information, for example to publish it. If you wish to re-use the information that we provide and you do not specify this in your initial application for information then you must make a further request for its re-use as per the Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015 www.legislation.gov.uk . This will not affect your initial information request.

Yours sincerely

S Davies

S Davies
Information Governance Officer