



North East and North Cumbria

Our Reference North East & North Cumbria
ICB\349

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25/05/2023

Applicant
By Email

Dear Applicant,

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request for Information – NHS North East & North Cumbria Integrated Care Board.

Thank you for your request received by North of England Commissioning Support (NECS) on 28/04/2023 for information held by NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB) under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

For information Clinical Commissioning Groups ceased to exist on 30 June 2022. Services that were previously delivered by the CCG are now being delivered by the successor organisation NHS North East and North Cumbria (ICB). This covers the areas of County Durham, Newcastle Gateshead, North Cumbria, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland and Tees Valley.

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

Request

- 1. Total number of staff directly employed by the organisation at**
 - a. 1st of July 2022**
 - b. 31st of March 2023**

- 2. Total number of staff indirectly employed by the organisation (i.e. contractors such as those employed and providing support via commissioning support organisations) at**
 - a. 1st of July 2022**
 - b. 31st March 2023**

- 3. Total cost of staff directly employed by the organisation at**

- a. 1st of July 2022
 - b. 31st March 2023
4. Total cost of staff indirectly employed by the organisation (i.e. contractors such as those employed via third parties such as commissioning support organisations) at
 - a. 1st of July 2022
 - b. 31st March 2023
 5. Number of directors within the organisation (band 9 or above) and above at
 - a. 1st of July 2022
 - b. 31st March 2023
 6. Number of roles within the organisation at band 8d at
 - a. 1st of July 2022
 - b. 31st March 2023
 7. Between 1st of July 2022 and 31st of March 2023, how many directly employed staff
 - a. Were made redundant
 - b. Had contract terminated
 - c. Resigned
 - d. Retired early
 - e. Retired
 8. Between 1st of July 2022 and 31st of March 2023, how much did the organisation spend for directly employed staff on
 - a. Redundancy payouts
 - b. Contract terminations
 - c. Resignations
 - d. Early retirement
 - e. Retirements

Response

1. Total Staff directly employed:
 - a. 01/07/2022 = 744
 - b. 31/03/2023 = 775
2. Total number of staff indirectly employed by the organisation:
 - a. 01/07/2022 = 48
 - b. 31/03/2023 = 15
3. Total cost of staff directly employed by the organisation at:
 - a. 01/07/2022 = 38,820,321.36
 - b. 31/03/2023 = 40,438,876.92

**Please note the information provided is taken directly from payroll. Some staff are seconded to other organisations and their costs are recharged out to receiving organisations. The value of the recharge has not been considered in providing this information.*

4. Total cost of staff indirectly employed by the organisation at:
 - a. 01/07/2022 = 37,892,973.86

b. 31/03/2023 = 37,808,220.86

**Please note the ICB receives commissioning support services from NECS (North of England Commissioning Support). Whilst staff in NECS carry out part of that service, the contract value is not solely related to staff costs and a breakdown of the different costs associated with the service delivery is not available. The value included in the number below is the annualised value of the NECS contract for all services delivered in the financial year 22/23. In addition to the NECS contract we have also included other recharges from local authorities and other bodies. Some of the costs recharged to the ICB relate to the direct delivery of health care services and these are also included in these values.*

5. *Number of directors within the organisation (band 9 or above) and above at:*

a. *01/07/2022 = 44*

b. *31/03/2023 = 56*

6. *Number of roles within the organisation at band 8d at*

a. *01/07/2022 = 22*

b. *31/03/2023 = 26*

7. *Between 1st of July 2022 and 31st of March 2023, how many directly employed staff*

a. *Were made redundant = 12*

b. *Had contract terminated = 21*

c. *Resigned = 37*

d. *Retired early = 3*

e. *Retired = 17*

Questions 8a – 8e:

NHS North East and North Cumbria ICB can confirm that they hold the information in scope of your request however it is exempt from disclosure because it is intended for future publication.

NHS North East and North Cumbria ICB is not obliged to provide information that is intended for future publication (section 22 of the Act) as this information will be published at the end of June 2023 in the annual accounts.

As section 22 is a 'qualified exemption', it requires NHS North East and North Cumbria ICB to demonstrate the prejudice which would occur if the information were to be released, and to consider whether the public interest is in favour of releasing the information regardless. When assessing whether or not it was in the public interest to disclose the information to you, NHS North East and North Cumbria took into account the following factors:

Public interest considerations favouring disclosure:

- Disclosure FOIA would be consistent with the government's commitment to transparency.*
- The disclosure would not bear any threat to the protection of the public.*

Public interest considerations favouring withholding the information:

- *Future publication is the most cost-effective way of releasing information*
- *The report and its contents are not yet finalised, and it is not in the public interest to provide an interim version which could provide inaccurate information. Such disclosure would not promote credibility or trust*
- *The information is due to be made public given its value and interest to a wide audience. It is not in the public interest to disclose such information to a small number of individuals in advance of wider publication*
- *It is in the public interest to ensure that the information is available to all members of the public at the same time; premature publication could undermine the principle of making the information available to all at the same time through the official publication process.*

Having undertaken the balancing exercise, NHS North East and North Cumbria ICB has concluded that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the requested information and that given the necessary preparation and administration involved in publishing the information, which includes liaison with other organisations, and collation of information, the ICB consider that our publication timetable is reasonable.

Should you require further information regarding the full Act or in particular section 22 this available here; <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/22>

In line 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 make a complaint or 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 complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. 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.gov.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

Ehren Smith

Information Governance Officer