

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria
ICB\FOI ICB838

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By Email

27 March 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 26 March 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

Under the FOI Act, could I please have for 2023/24:

1. Your total ARRS budget
2. Your expected total ARRS underspend
3. Your plans for any unclaimed funding, specifically:
 - a) Is the ICB inviting PCNs to bid for unclaimed funding?
 - b) If yes to a), how much of this funding has been reallocated?
 - c) If yes to a), how many PCN bids have been approved for unclaimed funding?
 - d) If no to a), what are the plans for unclaimed funding, if any?

Our Response

We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB does hold the information you have 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. Expected funding retained by NHSE for 2023/24 is £6,976k – not utilised by PCNs.

3. Re, plans for unclaimed funding:

- a) No, see d) below
- b) Not applicable as response to question 3a is no.
- c) Not applicable as response to question 3a is no.
- d) All PCNs were able to utilise the ICB's anticipated underspend on a non-recurrent basis. However, the historic opportunity for some PCNs to go 'further faster' did not apply to 2023/24 as unlike previous years, no confirmation has been given of ARRS budgets for 2024/25 or any potential increases.

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