

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria
ICB\FOI ICB795

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By Email

22 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 28 February 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.

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

Your Request and our Response

Please answer:

- 1. Does your organisation have any ongoing so-called “block bookings/contracted beds” for care provision with the following private care companies:**
 - a. Malhotra Care Homes Limited
 - b. Prestwick Care Limited
 - c. Lifestyle Care (North East) Opco Limited
 - d. Malhotra Care Homes (Sunderland) Limited
- 2. If so, how many beds are booked? Please provide details per care home where possible.**

E.g. 50 beds contracted in Addison Court care home.
- 3. How much do you pay for any block bookings/contracted beds with these companies. Please list the amount per provider and the total cost of the contract where possible.**

Responses to Questions 1-3

The ICB does not hold any contracts with the providers listed for 'block bookings' of beds. The ICB does have access to block booked beds commissioned by relevant local authorities at the following homes:

- 8 block funded beds at Parklands Nursing Home in Seaham, funded and contracted by Durham County Council
- 20 block funded beds at Eastside Gardens Care Home, funded by the Adult Social Care discharge fund and contracted by North Tyneside Council
- 3 block funded beds at Brooke House, 3 at Belle Vue and 1 at Brunswick House. These are all contracted by Newcastle City Council

We understand that Local Authorities have received the same FOI and therefore expect that they will provide further details on the above arrangements as the contracting authority as they hold this information, rather than the ICB, however the relevant Local Authority contact details have also been provided below.

Durham County Council	foi@durham.gov.uk
North Tyneside Council	foiofficer@northtyneside.gov.uk
Newcastle City Council	freedomofinformation@newcastle.gov.uk

- 4. Are you reviewing your arrangement with any of these providers following revelations in a recent BBC Panorama investigation that staff are overworked, feel trapped by their contracts, and Addison Court care home (run by Prestwick Care) had its rating suspended by the CQC? Please provide details per provider.**

Response to Question 4

Where the ICB and LA have block beds arrangements, these arrangements have been reviewed (not specifically because of the Panorama programme) to determine ongoing needs.

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

Paul Atkinson

Paul Atkinson
Information Governance Officer