

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 24-049

NECS – John Snow House
Durham University Science Park
Durham
DH1 3YG

Tel: 0191 301 1300
E-mail: necsu.icbfoi@nhs.net

By Email

23 May 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 27 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

Please can you provide me with:

1. The total spent on private in-patient mental health beds broken down by provider for the financial years 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24.
2. For each of the providers in (1) please list the name of the hospital or clinic used.

If you feel that a substantive response to this request is not possible within a reasonable time frame, or the request is too broad, I would be grateful if you could contact me and provide assistance as to how I could refine the request.

Our Response

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

1. Total forecast spend on in-patient mental health beds in 2023/24 is £5.3m, although that represents all non-NHS spend and may include some care provided for people with Learning

Disabilities or Autism. This covers both contracted and non-contracted spend on inpatient care. We don't have any specific block contract arrangements with any providers for this care but would put in place an individual agreement for each patient who is placed with a provider. The breakdown across the areas indicated is:

CAMHS	£0
Older Adult	£742k
PICU	£0
General Adult	£4,598k

This is representative of the spend levels in recent years, taking into account the impact of inflation uplifts each year.

2. 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. However, we have estimated that to provide you with the required information, would exceed the cost limit of £450 for the NHS as specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Again as above Fees) Regulations 2004.

S.12(1) of the FOIA provides that a public authority is not obliged to respond to a request for information if the cost of locating, retrieving, and extracting information and preparing the response can be included in the costs for these purposes.

There are on average 1000 ledger transactions per ICB delivery place. It is estimated that it would averagely take one member of staff approximately 10 hours to obtain the requested information from the Financial Ledger system in each of the 13 ICB delivery places. This would mean 130 hours to extract the level of detail requested from our Financial Ledger system. NENC ICB is therefore unable to provide the requested information within the prescribed limit.

Following this extraction, it would be necessary to verify the information extracted with each Local Authority corresponding to the ICB delivery place. It is estimated that for each ICB delivery place, this would take 2 hours; totalling 26 hours for NENC ICB. This would then need to be coordinated and summarised for NENC ICB, which we estimate would take 5 hours. Therefore, the total time taken for NENC ICB to provide this information is 161 hours.

It may be possible to redefine the search to one ICB area, however, this may not be representative of activity or spend for NENC ICB.

Please note that in accordance with s.17 Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter represents a refusal notice.

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