



North East and North Cumbria

Our Reference PA\ North East & North
Cumbria ICB\ICB112

Your Reference ICB112

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18 November 2022

By Email

Dear

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 22 October 2022 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. Is Felton/Widdrington going to merge with Lindisfarne group under one NHS contract or not.**
- 2. If not, then what exactly is the legal status of the Lindisfarne group within the NHS structure.**
- 3. Who is proposing to hold the NHS contract for the new Felton Surgery.**

4. How does the Lindisfarne group differ from Well up north group, as we appear to have groups within groups?
5. Please provide the minutes where these matters have been discussed and agreed within the CICB.
6. Please provide the plans referred to in the council extract provided by the CICB and Lindisfarne group.
7. Please provide the latest PIDS, since the merger of Felton and Widdrington surgeries.
8. As the previous plan was not a NCCG capital project but only a leasing project, using a FTSE 250 REIT company to provide the completed building using their own capital, and therefore no legal contract with CICB or the doctor contractor, as far as the build costs are concerned, who exactly is going to apply to the council for the S106 £250,000, which was agreed for a capital project only.

Response –

1. *Felton and Widdrington practices merged to one contract and became Northumberland Health on 1st January 2022. Northumberland Health subsequently merged with Cheviot, Glendale and Well close to become Lindisfarne Health on July 1st, 2022.
Lindisfarne health is a single partnership that holds the four contracts.

Due to the location of the individual practices the general running and staffing of the individual practice sites remains unchanged.*
2. *Lindisfarne health is a GP partnership that holds the four contracts as described above.*
3. *The NHS (General Medical Services) contract for Northumberland Health (which includes the Felton surgery) is held by all the partners of Lindisfarne Health. This will not change with the new surgery building.*
4. *Well up North is the North Northumberland Primary care network (PCN) and includes other Northumberland practices in the area. These practices work together to deliver integrated community-based healthcare. For example, delivery of the GP COVID vaccination service. The PCN is not a partnership.
More detail can be found on the WUN website 'About us' page.*

Well Up North

5. *Minutes attached. Where items in the minutes were not in scope of your request they have been redacted and replaced with the phrase "text redacted – not in scope"*

Information has also been redacted from item 4.1 of the minutes as the content is exempt from disclosure under section 43 (2) – commercial interests, of the Freedom of Information Act 2000

A public interest test has been undertaken and the reasons for both disclosure and non-disclosure considered.

The reasons favouring disclosure are as follows:

- *There is a public interest in publishing information relating to how public money is spent and accounted for, which would be in the spirit of openness and transparency in which NENC ICB operates.*

The reasons favouring non-disclosure are as follows:

- *Disclosure of this information into the public domain is likely to give the recipient of the information an unfair advantage in that they would have knowledge of commercially sensitive information pertaining to the Lindisfarne Health administrative merger thus impacting on fairness and transparency.*
- *Disclosure of the requested information would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of the partners of Lindisfarne Health as the release of the requested information would give potential providers of a similar service a competitive advantage to any future procurement.*
- *Disclosure of the information would disadvantage NENC ICB's commercial interests and not disclosing the information would ensure the ICB continues to obtain the most appropriate value for money when its services for the public.*

The information that is being shared in response to this enquiry provides clear evidence of the discussion and agreement of the administrative merger of Lindisfarne Health.

6. *Existing PID remains latest version – already shared. However, a refreshed PID will have to be produced to inform a decision on future plans.*
7. *Existing PID remains latest version – already shared. However, a refreshed PID will have to be produced to inform a decision on future plans.*
8. *No direct applicant – mutual agreement, as stated in the paper. Approved by NCC Planning Committee.*

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

Paul Atkinson

Paul Atkinson
Information Governance Officer