



North East and North Cumbria

Our Reference

HM\ North East & North
Cumbria ICB\ FOI ICB091

NECS - Riverside House

Goldcrest Way

Your Reference

Newburn Riverside

Newcastle upon Tyne

NE15 8NY

10 November 2022

Tel: (0191) 217 2625

E-mail: Necsu.icbfoi@nhs.net

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

Thank you for your request received by North of England Commissioning Support (NECS) on 30 September 2022 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.

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 Integrated Care Board (ICB).

Details of Request

Under the Freedom of information act I am requesting all correspondence regarding the building of the new surgery in Felton, Northumberland between Northumberland CCG, the builders and Drs Lees and Waite.

I would particularly wish to see information regarding any reasons for the delays between 2016 to 2022 and why other building companies dropped their bids to build the new surgery.

I also request any communication regarding the current lease at 51 Main Street between the CCG and Drs Lees /Waite between 2019 and 2021.

Response

On 14th October 2022 you kindly clarified you wish to receive all information held.

NHS North East and North Cumbria ICB do hold the requested information; however, your request is exempt under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as it exceeds the appropriate limit.

The scope of the request is such that the time and cost required would exceed the appropriate limit, which is currently set at £450 for the ICB, which equates to 18 hours or

more of an officer's time. This is due to the breadth and depth of searches that would be necessary, and the considerable length of the time period that they cover. The ICB to conduct a manual exercise to retrieve this information, searching not only formal correspondence but extensive searches of current and historic email records for a number of key individuals using particularly broad and generic search terms (e.g., 'Felton', '51 Main Street', 'new surgery' etc.).

The ICB's calculations is that it would take a total of 30 hours, at a minimum. This would provide an estimated cost of 30 hours x £25 per hour = £750 and is therefore outside the data collection limits.

In addition, under Section 16 FOI Act 2000, the ICB have a duty to provide advice and assistance. The ICB may be able to comply with a refined request. For example, narrowing down the time period for which information is being requested or being more specific in terms of the nature of the correspondence being requested. Please note that these are only suggestions of what the ICB would be able to provide and not categorically what they can provide within the prescribed cost limit.

If you would like to resubmit a refined request, please do so via - necsu.icbfoi@nhs.net.

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

Hilary Murphy

Hilary Murphy
Information Governance Officer