



North East and North Cumbria

Our Reference PA\ North East & North
Cumbria ICB\ICB243

Your Reference ICB243

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15 March 2023

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 16 February 2023 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 in bold and response in italics

Please provide clarification and confirmation that the ICB FOI response to me is correct and that of the Contractor Northumberland Health is incorrect.

The private minutes of the ICB provided to me by FOI and the minutes of the NCC planning meeting available online, both confirm a merger has taken place.

An administrative merger has taken place. Which resulted in the formation of the Lindisfarne Partnership as an administrative body that provides back-office functions to the GP practices forming the Lindisfarne Partnership.

The ICB FOI response clearly states the four contracts are held by Lindisfarne Health. The Facebook surgery clarification and the public meeting discussion directly contradicts this.

The FOI response and the Facebook surgery post states that Lindisfarne Health is a Partnership, and that the partnership holds four contracts.

The Lindisfarne Partnership is an administrative body and does not hold the contracts. Separate GP contracts remain, but all GPs on the Lindisfarne Partnership are named on each of the separate GP contracts.

Assura told me directly that their contract would be with Dr Lees.

It is the ICBs understanding that at this time that the signatories to the contract are yet to be agreed by the GP Partners for Northumberland Health GP contract. Assura has stated to the ICB they require at least 2 signatories to the contract. This is for the Lindisfarne Health partners to determine.

Whichever, partner or partners sign the lease agreement will do so on behalf of all partners named on the GP contract, and responsibility for the lease will be outlined in the Partnership Agreement.

The contractual arrangements are clear in that four GP contracts remain, the relationship between the GPs named on those contracts is in line with the administrative merger and the Lindisfarne Health Partnership.

I would like copies of the latest PIDS for this new Felton surgery project as well as a copy of the revised District valuers report, as I understand that new terms have been agreed with Assura for the lease of the building once built due to inflationary build costs.

There is no revised PID for the Felton Surgery project, the new Felton surgery rent has been agreed as set out in the original PID. Any increase in rent subject to building costs will be supported under direction 6 of the premises cost directions with the guidance of the District Valuer.

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