



North East and North Cumbria

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria
ICB\FOI ICB705

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26/01/2024

Applicant
By Email

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 15/01/24 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

Under the FOI act, could I please have, split into 'primary care prescribing' and 'overall prescribing spend' (if there is a split):

- 1. What was your full-year budget for prescribing costs at the start of 23/24? Please also say what your planned prescribing spend was YTD at month 10***
- 2. Then forecast full year spend on prescribing at year-end 23/24. Also actual prescribing spend YTD at month 10****
- 3. What was the assumed rate of growth in prescribing costs in your financial plan for 23/24, compared to 22/23**
- 4. What is the most recent assessment of the actual rate of growth, compared to 22/23**

5. For 22/23 and in the YTD at month 10**, please provide how much was spent on each group of drugs e.g., respiratory, CVD, mental health (i.e. categorised by BNF categories or similar)

*If month 10 not available, please provide the most recent month.

**As above but please provide information for the same month as above

Our Response

1. The full year budget for prescribing costs for 23-24 is £569.4m*
2. The full year forecast spend on prescribing costs for 23-24 is £605.0m*
The YTD prescribing costs were £406.6m*
3. The rate of growth included in the financial plan for 23-24 was 2.4%.
4. Compared to the same period in the previous financial year, i.e., Months 1-8 22-23 versus Month 1-8 23-24 the rate of growth seen in prescribing costs is 8.5%

* The budget and spend (FOT and YTD) above for prescribing costs are as per the month 8 finance report to the ICB executive. Note: the total prescribing costs reported are different to drugs reimbursement costs as other services and recharges are also accounted for in the ICB overall prescribing costs. For example, Flu costs are recharged to NHSEI.

5. See table for BNF chapter breakdown of 22-23 costs and 23-24 YTD costs to Month 8. Please note The BNF figures below are only obtainable from the ePACT2 system at gross value (i.e., before recharges) so this will be a difference to why the BNF data for question 5 below is higher than the YTD reported in the above values on overall prescribing costs.

BNF Chapter	22-23 Spend £m's	23-24 spend Month 1-8 £m's
Anaesthesia	1.3	0.9
Appliances	33.6	25.5
Cardiovascular System	95.7	68.4
Central Nervous System	94.3	64.2
Dressings	7.8	5.6
Ear, Nose and Oropharynx	3.9	2.7
Endocrine System	84.6	59.6
Eye	7.1	5.0
Gastro-Intestinal System	44.2	32.4
Immunological Products and Vaccines	8.7	6.9
Incontinence Appliances	3.4	2.3
Infections	15.0	10.1
Malignant Disease and Immunosuppression	9.2	6.7
Musculoskeletal and Joint Diseases	7.6	5.0
Nutrition and Blood	42.3	30.5
Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Urinary-Tract Disorders	13.7	9.2
Other Drugs and Preparations	0.4	0.3
Respiratory System	73.4	50.5
Skin	14.3	10.3

<i>Stoma Appliances</i>	22.9	15.9
Total	583.2	412.0

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.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

Ehren Smith

Ehren Smith
Information Governance Officer