



# North East and North Cumbria

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Cumbria ICB\FOI ICB618

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28 November 2023

Dear

## **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 November 2023 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**

I am writing in relation to news that the Government has refused requests from NHS England to allocate £1 billion to address the financial impact on NHS budgets from industrial action, and that NHSE has now told finance directors that c. £600m from the previously ringfenced "service development fund" for several improvement initiatives can be repurposed to support their financial plans.

<https://www.hsj.co.uk/finance-and-efficiency/electives-and-capital-to-be-cut-after-treasury-refuses-1bn-strike-cash-plea/7035934.article>

<https://www.hsj.co.uk/finance-and-efficiency/cancer-prevention-and-learning-disabilities-set-for-sensible-budget-raids/7035947.article>

Under the Freedom of Information Act regulations, I would like to request the following information:

1. Please advise:

- i) What is your budget for dentistry this financial year?

- ii) How much has been spent as of 8th November 2023;
  - iii) What is your estimated underspend in dentistry this year; and
  - iv) How much, if any, of this will be made available to support your financial plans?
2. What assessment you have made of the impact these budget reallocations will have on patients and services?

Please do not hesitate to contact me should any aspect of my request require clarification.

## **Our Response**

1. Question 1 responses:
  - i. The total dental budget for the 2023/24 financial year is £216,822k.
  - ii. Year to date costs against the dental budget for the 7 months to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023 were £126,479k.
  - iii. The latest forecast underspend on dental budgets this year is approximately £16.4m. This is an estimate and will continue to be reviewed over the remainder of the year with investment plans agreed to support dental access recovery.
  - iv. Any remaining underspend on dental budgets will support the overall delivery of ICB financial plans.
2. The initial quality impact assessment is that there is no additional adverse impact on patients and services as the forecast underspend is due to lack of providers rather than a cut in provision by the ICB – the ICB has invested additional resource of around £3m to increase capacity wherever possible whilst developing longer term solutions to service gaps.

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](http://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](http://www.legislation.gov.uk) . This will not affect your initial information request.

Yours sincerely

*S Davies*

**S Davies**  
**Information Governance Officer**