



North East and North Cumbria

Our Reference North East & North Cumbria
ICB FOI 331

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21 April 2023

By Email

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 18 April 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.

Please find the information you requested on behalf of the ICB as follows.

Your Request

Please can you send us all correspondence from the period June 21 to now held within your organisation in relation to the medication Inclisian, including meetings, contracts, organisation for rollout, costs, correspondence with the Department for Health, Academic Health Science Networks, and uptake.

Our Response

NENC ICB does not hold some of this information. The ICB's Medicines Optimisation Team would like to clarify that uptake figures are available through data held by NHS Business Services Authority. Therefore, The CCG considers that this information is exempt from disclosure under Freedom of Information 2000, Section 21 (Information

reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means), which provides an exemption from the duty to disclose information which is available to the Applicant by other means.

They would also like clarity as to whether the definition of correspondence includes emails sent or received by the MO team; it will not be possible to access all emails sent across the ICB in relation to Inclsiran.

For the information that NENC ICB does hold, the ICB estimates that the cost of complying with your request would exceed the appropriate limit.

The ICB estimates that a manual exercise to retrieve this information would exceed the appropriate limit set out in section 12(1) (cost limit) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Currently this is set at £450 for the ICB, which equates to 18 hours or more of an officer's time.

It is difficult to accurately estimate the amount of time it will take. Each individual place (former CCG) within the ICB would need to carry out this exercise. However previous experience of a similar request in only one place eventually took 15 hours of Band 8b's time.

For the whole ICB this would be $8 \times 15 = 120$ hours. The reason for the amount of time is that emails sent and received from a number of different email addresses will need to be searched as well as all bulletins, news alerts, websites, meeting minutes and informal notes from meetings.

Under the Section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance, the CCG may be able to comply with a refined request. For example, if the request were to be limited to formal documentation at meetings, inclusion in work plans or training events this would be more manageable within the FOI timescale requirements. Supplying minutes of formal meetings and publications on websites would considerably reduce the time required and allow us to respond within the appropriate limit.

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

Pamela Coxon

Pamela Coxon
Information Governance Officer