



North East and North Cumbria

Our Reference SD\North East and North
Cumbria ICB\FOI ICB693

NECS – John Snow House
Durham University Science Park
Durham
DH1 3YG

Tel: 0191 301 1300
E-mail: necsu.icbfoi@nhs.net

23 January 2024

Applicant Name
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 Freedom of Information (FOI) request received by the North East and the North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB) on 10 January 2024

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).

We have dealt with your request in accordance with your “right to know” under section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (subsequently referred to as FOIA2000) which entitles you to be provided with information “held” by a public authority unless an appropriate exemption applies.

Your Request

We are conducting some research into the unplanned/ ad-hoc/ non-contract spend that is occurring in mental health. We are hoping to find out the amount of money that is being spent on paying for beds in private mental health hospitals in an ad-hoc fashion due to NHS bed pressures.

We are interested in data from the 2022/2023 financial year and will be enquiring about the figures in different subspecialties (for example General Adult, CAMHS etc).

Please can you tell me:

- 1) Is this information held by the integrated care board, or should we approach mental health NHS trusts directly?

- 2) What is the terminology used for this out-of-contract spending? We have seen it described in different ways (called ad-hoc spending, or non-contract spending, or unplanned spending). We want to ensure that we are using the correct terminology when we submit FOI requests.

Our Response

1. NENC ICB does not pay for beds in private mental health hospitals on an ad-hoc basis. Any placements which are made will be done on a planned basis, taking into account the needs of the patient and the range of services available both via direct NHS provision and via independent sector providers. Some independent sector placements are made directly by the ICB while others are managed on our behalf as part of wider block contract agreements with NHS providers.
2. To get full information you may need to request this from both ICBs and from mental health NHS trusts directly. If it is spend with private sector providers that you are looking for it would be best to use this term rather than ad-hoc or unplanned as very few placement would actually be unplanned, although private sector providers may be used for mental health services on a planned basis.

In accordance with our duty under s.16 of the FOIA to provide reasonable advice and assistance to an individual requesting information, we have provided the FOI email addresses for the NHS Mental Health Hospital Foundation Trusts in North East and North Cumbria to make your request.

| NENC Mental Health Hospital FTs | Email |
|---|------------------|
| Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne & Wear NHS FT | foi@cntw.nhs.uk |
| Tees, Esk & Wear Valley NHS FT | tewv.foi@nhs.net |

In accordance 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 Information Governance Officer 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

Yours sincerely

S Davies

S Davies
Information Governance Officer