



North East and North Cumbria

Our Reference SD\North East and North
Cumbria ICB\FOI ICB617

NECS – John Snow House
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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) What is your estimated YTD deficit, and how much of this has been caused by industrial action?
- 2) In light of reports that NHS England has told finance directors that they can utilise underspends in the development of cancer, prevention, learning disabilities and autism services, as well as dentistry, to manage this deficit, which areas have you identified for budget reductions this year, and by how much?

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

Our Response

- 1) The ICS has a YTD variance against plan at month 7 of £20.8m. It is difficult to accurately assess the impact of Industrial Action as there are direct costs of staff cover as well as indirect opportunity costs / impacts such as lower elective activity income and inability to progress cost efficiencies.
- 2) The ICB has identified additional non-recurrent slippage in areas such as the above to a value of £7,740k.

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

S Davies

S Davies
Information Governance Officer