

26/09/2022

NN-ICB/22/51

Dear Requestor

**RE: Freedom of Information Request**

With reference to your request for information I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold the information that you have requested. A response to your request is below.

Please note that both NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, and Bassetlaw Clinical Commissioning Groups ceased operation on 30 June 2022. They have been superseded by NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) which began operation on 1 July 2022.

In the request you asked:

I would like to know how much the Integrated Care Board (ICB) pays providers for a variety of abortion services in the context of the NHS England national tariff payment system.

Below is a partial table of the national tariff prices (2022/23) for abortion procedures, as set out by NHS England: [https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/22-23NT\\_Annex-DtA-National-tariff-workbook.xlsx](https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/22-23NT_Annex-DtA-National-tariff-workbook.xlsx) (tab APC & OPROC, rows 1,704 to 1,713)

To respond to the FOI, please can you fill out the third column of the table below with how much the ICB pays providers for each procedure set out in the first column. The second column is the rate for each procedure according to the national tariff system.

HRG Name	Combined day case /ordinary elective spell (£)	How much the ICB pays providers to carry out procedure (£)
Surgical, Abortion or Miscarriage Care, over 20 weeks Gestation	2,701	
Surgical, Abortion or Miscarriage Care, from 14 to 20 weeks Gestation	1,552	
Surgical, Abortion or Miscarriage Care, under 14 weeks Gestation, with Insertion of Long-Acting Contraceptive	1,161	
Surgical, Abortion or Miscarriage Care, under 14 weeks Gestation, without Insertion of Long-Acting Contraceptive	1,078	
Medical, Abortion or Miscarriage Care, over 20 weeks Gestation	2,455	

Medical, Abortion or Miscarriage Care, from 14 to 20 weeks Gestation	978	
Medical, Abortion or Miscarriage Care, from 9 to under 14 weeks Gestation, with Insertion of Long-Acting Contraceptive	763	
Medical, Abortion or Miscarriage Care, from 9 to under 14 weeks Gestation, without Insertion of Long-Acting Contraceptive	492	
Medical, Abortion or Miscarriage Care, under 9 weeks Gestation, with Insertion of Long-Acting Contraceptive	660	
Medical, Abortion or Miscarriage Care, under 9 weeks Gestation, without Insertion of Long-Acting Contraceptive	389	

Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB's termination of pregnancy provision is provided by independent sector providers. We have locally agreed prices that were established via a formal procurement process and the ICB is unable to share this information as it is deemed commercially sensitive under Section 43 (2) of the Act.

*Section 43 of the Act states that:*

*(1) Information is exempt information if it constitutes a trade secret.*

*(2) Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).*

*(3) The duty to confirm or deny does not arise if, or to the extent that, compliance with section 1(1)(a) would, or would be likely to, prejudice the interests mentioned in subsection (2).*

*Section 43 is a qualified exemption and is subject to a **public interest test**. Even where you are satisfied that the information requested is a trade secret or that its release would prejudice someone's commercial interests, you can only refuse to provide the information if you believe that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.*

*A **public interest test** was undertaken on the 22 September 2022 in response to your request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.*

*The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) sets out public interest factors in favour of and against disclosure. Some of the factors in favour were as follows:*

- Ensuring that the public authority can be held accountable for its decisions, particularly as to how it spends public money.*
- Ensuring that a tender process is open and transparent.*
- Providing insight into the nature of a procurement process and winning bids, so that other companies are encouraged to take part in the process and improve future bids.*

*Public interest factors against disclosure (and in favour of the maintenance of an exemption) included:*

- There is an inherent public interest in the maintenance of the exemption, and of upholding private companies' expectations that commercially confidential information will be protected from disclosure when they engage in public authority tenders.*

- *Avoiding the discouragement of prospective tenderers from tendering for public sector contracts, for fear of disclosure of their commercially sensitive information to competitors, and that this may adversely affect both the quality of tenders for public sector contracts, and public authorities' ability to negotiate them effectively.*
- *Maintaining a competitive market and driving competition as this benefits public authorities and consumers, and which could be threatened by disclosure of companies' commercial information.*

On balance of the factors considered above, along with relevant case law, we considered that the ICB would be entitled to withhold the amount paid to providers for a variety of abortion services in the context of the NHS England national tariff payment system and that this would not be superseded by public interest considerations.

If you are unhappy with the way in which your request has been handled, NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) have an internal review procedure through which you can raise any concerns you might have. Further details of this procedure can be obtained by contacting Lucy Branson, Associate Director of Governance via [lucy.branson@nhs.net](mailto:lucy.branson@nhs.net) or by writing to FOI Team at NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB, Sir John Robinson House, Sir John Robinson Way, Arnold, Daybrook, Nottingham NG5 6DA.

If you remain dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you can apply to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), who will consider whether the organisation has complied with its obligations under the Act and can require the organisation to remedy any problems. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB. You can find out more about how to do this, and about the Act in general, on the Information Commissioner's Office website at: <https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/>

Complaints to the Information Commissioner's Office should be sent to:

FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution, Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Telephone 0303 123 1113 or report a concern via <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information (FOI) Officer on behalf of *NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board*

[notts.foi@nhs.net](mailto:notts.foi@nhs.net)

*All information we have provided is subject to the provisions of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015. Accordingly, if the information has been made available for re-use under the [Open Government Licence \(OGL\)](#) a request to re-use is not required, but the license conditions must be met. You must not re-use any previously unreleased information without having the consent of NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board. Should you wish to re-use previously unreleased information then you must make your request in writing (email will suffice) to the FOI Lead via [notts.foi@nhs.net](mailto:notts.foi@nhs.net). All requests for re-use will be responded to within 20 working days of receipt.*