

14/08/2023

NN-ICB/23/395

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 partially hold the information that you have requested. A response to each part of your request is below.

In the request you asked:

- 1) Please tell me, from 2018 to the date of this email, how many patients you commissioned to have a tattoo removed.

The ICB does hold this information however if the number is very low (5 or less) the information cannot be disclosed as it could potentially identify the individuals involved, especially if combined with other data, and this would constitute a breach of the Data Protection Act 2018. Therefore, this information is exempt from disclosure under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 on the grounds that it is personal information.

As defined by the Data Protection Act, personal data constitutes as:

“Personal data” means any information relating to an identified or identifiable living individual.

“Identifiable living individual” means a living individual who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to -

- (a) an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data or an online identifier, or
- (b) one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of the individual

- 2) In each event, please tell me the total cost to your authority.

The ICB does not hold this information. The information we hold on the number of patients that have had a tattoo removal procedure relates to cancer patients who are excluded from the ICBs Service Restriction Policy and the costs relating to tattoo removal are funded by NHS England. You may wish to contact NHS England to request this, information on how to submit a Freedom of Information request to NHS England can be found on their website via the following link - <https://www.england.nhs.uk/contact-us/foi/>

- 3) Finally, please tell me what guidelines/criteria you apply in deciding whether or not to commission such a procedure (e.g. only for the removal of offensive tattoos on the face, gang tattoos, self-image problems). Please provide me with copies of any internal documents that spell out these guidelines.

The criteria for removal of tattoo's in detailed in the ICB Service Restriction Policy on page 40 under 'Laser treatment – Skin (including tattoo removal) which can be found on our website - <https://notts.icb.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/04/NNCCG-Service-Restriction-Policy-Nottinghamshire-ADDITIONAL-INFORMATION-v0.3-ICB.pdf>

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 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

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. All requests for re-use will be responded to within 20 working days of receipt.