

02/11/2023

NN-ICB/23/483

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 provide the names of all providers of pain clinics in the ICB over the past two NHS financial years

Primary Integrated Community Services Ltd (PICS)

2. For each provider, please share the service specification that is (or was) in place

Please see attached service specifications. There are four service specification covering different geographical areas but are included in the one overarching Pain Service contract.

On page 22 of the attached Mid Notts Community Pain Service Specification, the ICB have redacted the current financial value of indicative activity.

**Section 43 (2)**

The ICB are 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 2 November 2023 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 current financial value of indicative activity and that this would not be superseded by public interest considerations.

3. For each provider, please state the role of the clinician who leads (i.e. is clinically responsible for) the service. I am not interested in personally identifiable information, I am interested in the position, e.g. consultant anaesthetist

Medical Director.

4. For each provider, please provide the total number of referrals received in NHS Financial Year 2022/23

7732 total referrals received in 2022/23.

5. For each provider, please provide the total number of referrals received in NHS Financial Year 2023/24 YTD (please also provide the cut-off date for this data)

At 31 August 2023, 3824 total referrals had been received.

6. For each provider, please state how many of the referrals in NHS Financial Year 2023/24 YTD were made through the e-referral system (eRS)

100% of referrals were made through the e-referral system (eRS).

7. For each provider, please provide the total number of patients who started treatment in NHS Financial Year 2022/23

The ICB does not hold this information.

8. For each provider, please provide the total number of patients who started treatment in NHS Financial Year 2023/24 YTD (please provide the cut-off date for this data)

The ICB does not hold this information.

9. For each provider, please provide the total amount the ICB paid for pain services in NHS Financial Year 2022/23

The total amount the ICB paid for pain services in 2022/23 was £2,176,611.

10. For each provider, please provide the total amount the ICB paid for pain services in NHS Financial Year 2023/24 YTD (please provide the cut-off date for this data)

This contract has block and cost per case elements. Up to 30 September 2023, block and actual value is £1,145,978.

11. For each provider, please provide the current size of the waiting list (e.g. 100 patients)

At 13 October 2023, there were 462 patients waiting for a first definitive treatment.

12. For each provider, please provide the current median and mean waiting time

The ICB does not hold this information.

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.