

13/12/2023

NN-ICB/23/536

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, we partially hold the information. A response to each part of your request is outlined below.

In the request you stated *'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'* and asked:

- 1) *i) What is your budget for dentistry this financial year; ii) how much has been spent as of 8th November 2023; iii) what is your estimated underspend in dentistry this year; and iv) how much, if any, of this will be made available to support your financial plans?*

Regarding parts (i) and (ii), the latest information held relates to Month 7 of 2023/24, with the annual plan figure for Primary Care Contracting (Dental) reported as £71.08 million and the year-to-date expenditure figure reported as £38.78 million.

Regarding parts (iii) and (iv), at the time of responding, NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB is still in the process of determining the estimated underspend and drafting a revised financial plan in response to the request from NHS England; the latter includes undertaking equality and quality impact assessments (EQIAs) for any services which will be impacted due to budget reallocations. The revised financial plan is due to be published during quarter four 2023/24, and as such, the ICB has applied the Section 22 exemption (information intended for future publication), under the FOI Act 2000, to this part of the request.

In considering the application of section 22, which is a qualified exemption, the ICB has considered the arguments both in favour of disclosing and withholding the information requested and has determined that the public interest in maintaining the application of the Section 22 exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure at this time.

- 2) *What assessment you have made of the impact these budget reallocations will have on patients and services?*

Please see response to part (iv) of question 1 above.

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.