Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board

07/08/2025

NN-ICB/25-1251

Dear Requestor

Re: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your request for information, received on 14 July 2025, regarding medicine wastage. We have processed your request in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Under the FOIA, public authorities like ours are required to respond to requests for information within 20 working days. In response to your request, I can confirm that we partially hold the information requested.

Please find below our response to your request:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding medicines wastage in your commissioning area, particularly within GP practices and primary care.

Please could you provide the following for the most recent 12-month period available:

1. The **estimated financial cost** of medicines wasted in primary care under your ICB's remit, including:
    - Returned or uncollected prescriptions from patients
    - Stock expired or disposed of by GP practices or pharmacies
    - Medication wastage due to patient non-adherence, over-prescribing, or other causes.

    The ICB's Medicines Optimisation Team does not hold this information.

2. Any available **quantitative data (e.g., volume/weight or item count)** on wasted medicines.

    The ICB does not hold the exact figure, but from July 2024 to July 2025 the estimated total weight of medicinal waste for community pharmacy is 173,005 kilogrammes.

3. Any **audits, internal reports, or evaluations** your ICB has conducted on medicines wastage or medicines optimisation?

    No reports, audits or evaluations undertaken, however the ICB is currently undertaking a medicines waste project which is a communications campaign in the Bulwell area asking people to Only Order the Medicines they Need, the evaluation will be due later in the year. You can find more information on the medicines waste webpage Medicine waste - NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB.

4. Whether your ICB supports or commissions any **initiatives, technologies, or systems** to reduce or monitor medicines waste.

   Medicines waste is an important part of the ICB's Medicines Optimisation Strategy – see link to strategy - Medicines Optimisation Strategy - Nottinghamshire Medicines Optimisation Team.

   As mentioned in Question 3, the ICB is currently undertaking a communications campaign in the Bulwell area asking people to Only Order the Medicines they Need.

If you are unhappy with the way in which your request has been handled, NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) has 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, Director of Corporate Affairs 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

nnicb-nn.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 nnicb-nn.foi@nhs.net. All requests for re-use will be responded to within 20 working days of receipt.