

19/02/2026

NN-ICB/25/1459

Dear Requestor

Re: Freedom of Information Internal Review

Thank you for your patience while we undertook an internal review of your Freedom of Information request regarding Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme (ARRS), underspends by individual Primary Care Networks (PCNs) across NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board (ICB).

Your original request was received on 7 January 2026, and we issued our response on 4 February 2026. You requested:

- 1) ARRS underspend in the 2023/24 financial year by each individual PCN (including PCN names rather than reference numbers)
- 2) ARRS underspend in the 2024/25 financial year by each individual PCN (including PCN names rather than reference numbers)
- 3) Current ARRS underspend in the 2025/26 financial year for each individual PCN including PCN names (please include the timeframe on your data i.e. April 2025-end of January 2026, etc.)

In response, we advised that there are no ARRS underspends recorded by individual PCNs.

Internal review

Following your request for an internal review, we have reassessed the handling of your request, the accuracy of our original response, and the availability of relevant recorded information held by the ICB. The outcome of this review is that the original response was appropriate and correct, and we therefore uphold the original decision. Further explanatory narrative and context are provided below to support this conclusion.

Under the Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme (ARRS), the ICB does not allocate individual ARRS budgets to PCNs. Instead, the ICB holds a system-level ARRS allocation and reimburses PCNs retrospectively for eligible expenditure actually incurred, up to a nationally defined maximum reimbursement limit per PCN.

As a result:

- PCNs do not hold an allocated ARRS 'budget' against which underspend could be measured.
- The ICB does not record or monitor 'underspends by PCN', because reimbursement is based solely on eligible claims submitted.
- Consequently, the ICB does not hold recorded information showing ARRS underspends at individual PCN level for any financial year.

As the ICB does not hold data in this format, and because no individual ARRS budgets exist against which underspends could be calculated, the requested information is not held for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Under Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, public authorities are required to provide recorded information they hold at the time of the request. However, the Act does not require authorities to create new information, perform calculations, or generate new datasets in order to respond to a request.

We recognise that this may not be the outcome you were hoping for, but we hope this explanation provides clarity regarding our original response.

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 request 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

Lucy Branson, Director of Corporate Affairs

NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board

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