

07/01/2026

NN-ICB/25-1432

Dear Requestor

Re: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your request for information, received on 10 December 2025, regarding NHS funding criteria for hand surgery procedures with cosmetic or functional indications. 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 do hold the information requested.

Please find below our response to your request:

1. Do you either routinely fund, or provide criteria-based access to funding for any hand surgery procedures that may be considered partly aesthetic (e.g. removal of benign lumps, ganglion cysts, Dupuytren's contracture with mild deformity, trigger finger release or scar revision)?

All of the listed procedures are included in the ICB's Value Based Commissioning Policy, which can be found within the commissioning policies on the ICB's website, About Us, Our Policies and Procedures - <https://notts.icb.nhs.uk/about-us/our-policies-and-procedures/>.

2. If you do provide criteria-based access, please provide details of the criteria, or indicate where this information can be found.

Please see link to the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB Value Based Commissioning Policy at the link provided at Question 1 above.

3. Are there specific conditions or functional thresholds that must be met before funding is approved (e.g. pain, impairment of hand function, or occupational impact)?

Please see link to the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB Value Based Commissioning Policy at the link provided at Question 1 above.

4. Is prior approval required before listing patients for such procedures?

Prior approval is required where the policy states it is. Please see link to the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB Value Based Commissioning Policy at the link provided at Question 1 above.

5. How long has the current policy been in place, and are there any planned or pending changes to this policy?

The Value Based Commissioning Policy has been effective from 1 February 2024.

Due to new clustering arrangements, it is anticipated that policy alignment of existing policies across NHS Derby and Derbyshire, NHS Lincolnshire and NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICBs will require alignment by April 2027. It should be noted that this timeframe is subject to national directive.

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.