

22/01/2026

NN-ICB/25-1445

Dear Requestor

Re: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your request for information, received on 18 December 2025, regarding Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS) services, referrals, workforce, and patient safety. 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:

1. IBS Patient Referrals

- a) The number of patients diagnosed with IBS who were referred to gastroenterology services.
- b) The number of patients diagnosed with IBS who were referred to dietetic services.

The ICB does not hold this information.

2. GP Workforce, Training, and Clinical Guidance

- a) The number of GPs currently employed or contracted within your ICB who have additional training, accreditation, or a declared special interest in gut health, gastroenterology, or IBS.

Zero.

The Integrated Care Board does not employ, nor engage through a contract for services, any General Practitioners who hold additional training, accreditation, or a declared special interest in gut health, gastroenterology, or irritable bowel syndrome (IBS).

- b) The guidelines, diagnostic criteria, and clinical pathways followed by GPs when assessing patients with suspected IBS (e.g., NICE guidance, local pathways, required investigations, and red-flag exclusions).

Please see the Area Prescribing Committee guidelines - [Management of IBS](#).

Further information is likely to be held by individual GP practices, which operate as independent organisations. Details of all GP practices can be found on the ICB website <https://notts.icb.nhs.uk/your-health/primary-care/>.

3. Referral Pathways and Waiting Lists

- a) The process for referring an IBS patient to a gastroenterologist.
- b) The current number of IBS patients on the gastroenterology waiting list and the average current waiting time for a first appointment.
- c) The process for referring an IBS patient to a dietitian.
- d) The current number of IBS patients on the dietetic waiting list and the average current waiting time for a first appointment.

The ICB does not hold this information.

The referral information is likely to be managed by GPs, which operate as independent primary care organisations, following the British Gastroenterology Society guidelines. Details of all GP practices can be found on the ICB website <https://notts.icb.nhs.uk/your-health/primary-care/>.

The number of patients on waiting lists is likely to be held by the secondary care providers:

- Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust - <https://www.nuh.nhs.uk/freedom-of-information>
- Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust - [Freedom of Information | Sherwood Forest Hospitals](#)
- Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust - <https://www.dbth.nhs.uk/contact/freedom-of-information/>.

4. Patient Complaints and Diagnostic Safety (Past 5 Years)

Please provide the number of complaints received relating to:

- a) Incorrect or inappropriate advice given by a GP to a patient with IBS.
- b) Misdiagnosis involving IBS (including IBS misdiagnosed as another condition, or another condition misdiagnosed as IBS).
- c) The steps taken by the ICB over the last five years to improve the quality of IBS diagnosis, referral accuracy, GP advice, and patient safety.

Zero complaints.

5. Commissioning, Oversight, and Quality Improvement

- a) Does the ICB commission any specialist IBS clinics, multidisciplinary gut health services, or community-based IBS programmes? If so, please describe these services.
- b) Has the ICB identified any service gaps for IBS care in its commissioning assessments or needs analyses?
- c) Does the ICB audit GP adherence to NICE IBS guidelines? If so, please provide details of the most recent audits.
- d) Has the ICB conducted any ICS-wide reviews of IBS diagnostic practices in the last five years?
- e) Does the ICB provide or commission any digital tools, online self-management resources, or mobile applications for IBS care?

The answer to Questions 5a)-e) above, is No.

For Secondary Care information relating to IBS, you may wish to contact individual providers and how to submit a Freedom of Information request to each provider can be found on their websites (see links below):

- Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust - <https://www.nuh.nhs.uk/freedom-of-information>
- Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust - [Freedom of Information | Sherwood Forest Hospitals](#)
- Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust - <https://www.dbth.nhs.uk/contact/freedom-of-information/>.

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.