

23/12/2025

NN-ICB/26-1419

Dear Requestor

**Re: Freedom of Information Request**

Thank you for your request for information, received on 2 December 2025, regarding the commissioning and delivery of Left Atrial Appendage Closure (LAAC) Services. 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. Commissioning Responsibility and Policy Alignment

- a) Which organisation currently holds commissioning responsibility for LAAC (Left Atrial Appendage Closure) services in your region (e.g. regional specialised commissioning team, delegated ICBs, or NHS England national team)?

Delegated ICBs.

- b) Does your organisation currently follow the NHS England national commissioning policy for LAAC (2018, updated 2023), or has a local policy or adaptation been developed?

Yes, we currently follow the NHS England national commissioning policy for LAAC.

- If a local policy, pathway, or protocol exists, please provide a copy or link.

Not applicable.

- c) If a local policy is under development or review, please confirm:

- Expected date of publication or implementation.

- Whether this is being coordinated with NHS England or local ICBs.

Not applicable.

- d) Has any local clarification or interpretation been issued to providers since the 2023/24 delegation of specialised services?

- For example, memoranda, board papers, or internal briefings regarding LAAC commissioning responsibilities.

- If so please provide

Yes. A circular was issued as a reminder to Trusts to complete the relevant Blueteq form for high-cost tariff excluded devices including LAA devices in line with the national policy (see attached).

## 2. Current Service Provision and Activity Levels

- a) Please list all NHS Trusts or provider sites currently authorised or contracted to deliver LAAC procedures within your region.

University Hospitals North Midlands and University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust.

- b) Have any provider sites been rejected to deliver LAAC, and if so why and when?

No.

- c) Please provide if any new sites are going through approval for delivering LAAC and also when they are expected to be live.

None.

- d) Has your region set any activity targets, trajectories, or expectations for LAAC growth toward the 1,000-procedure national projection referenced in the NHS England commissioning policy?

- If yes, please provide details or supporting documentation.

No.

## 3. Funding and Commissioning Approach

- a) Under which funding or contracting model are LAAC procedures currently commissioned (e.g. specialised contract, delegated ICB funding, block arrangement, tariff)?

The NHS Standard Contract, utilising the NHS payment scheme. API (Aligned payment incentive) elective variable element.

- b) Has your organisation made any local amendments or clarifications to the national tariff or payment mechanism for LAAC?

No.

## 4. Forward Planning for 2026–27

- a) Is your organisation undertaking, or planning, a review of LAAC service commissioning as part of its specialised cardiac or cardiovascular plans for 2026–27?

No.

- b) Has LAAC been referenced in any regional delivery plan, stroke prevention strategy, or specialised cardiac service plan for 2026–27?

- If so, please provide a copy or extract.

No.

- c) Who is the designated commissioning or clinical lead for LAAC or specialised cardiac services within your region? (Name and title if publicly available.)

NHSE Midlands Specialised Commissioned services are commissioned and managed, both for Retained Services on behalf of NHSE and Delegated Services on behalf of ICBs, through the NHSE Midlands Specialised Commissioning team and can be contacted via - [england.masc@nhs.net](mailto:england.masc@nhs.net).

## 5. Supporting Information

If available, please share any local needs assessment or modelling undertaken to estimate the potential eligible LAAC population within your region.

Not applicable.

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](mailto: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](mailto:nnicb-nn.foi@nhs.net)

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