

09/03/2026

NN-ICB/26-1494

Dear Requestor

Re: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your request for information, received on 29 January 2026, regarding clinical wheelchair services (WCS). 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:

- A. How is funding and contracting for WCS structured within your ICB – apart from the NHS, are there any other proportion of funding that is supplied by local authorities or other bodies?

Wheelchair Services within Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board are commissioned and funded solely by the NHS. No proportion of funding for these services is provided by local authorities or other external organisations.

The current contracting arrangements for Wheelchair Services are structured to provide both long-term wheelchair provision and short-term wheelchair provision.

- B. What is the total budget allocated for WCS services for the current financial year, and what is the planned budget for the next financial year - if this is not known, can you provide a percentage estimate of whether it will be higher, lower, or unchanged compared with the current budget?

The total budget for the current financial year 2025/26 is £4,227,946.

The planned budget for 2026/27 relates to a live procurement exercise. Disclosure of information relating to anticipated expenditure during an ongoing procurement process would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of the ICB and current or potential suppliers, and could compromise the integrity of the procurement process.

This information is therefore exempt from disclosure under *Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (Commercial Interests)*.

Section 43(2) is a qualified exemption, and the ICB has therefore considered the public interest test.

Public interest in favour of disclosure:

- Promoting transparency and accountability in the use of public funds.

Public interest in favour of maintaining the exemption:

- Protecting the integrity and fairness of an ongoing procurement process.
- Avoiding the disclosure of commercially sensitive information that could influence bidder behaviour or distort competition.
- Preventing prejudice to the commercial interests of potential suppliers participating in the procurement.
- Protecting the ICB's ability to secure best value for money through fair competition.
- Avoiding harm to the ICB's negotiating position during the procurement process.

Having considered the above factors, the ICB has concluded that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure at this time.

C. What was the total expenditure (£) on WCS services for each of the last three financial years?

2022/23 - £3,924,523

2023/24 - £3,962,958

2024/25 - £4,095,155.

D. What proportion of expenditure was on outsourced (i.e. independent sector) service providers for each of the last three financial years?

2022/23 - 24.5%

2023/24 - 25.6%

2024/25 - 25.4%.

E. Which independent providers did you use for WCS services in the last financial year, and what value of total spending was with each provider? For example, NRS Healthcare, Millbrook Healthcare, Ross Care, AJM Healthcare, Blatchford, Opcare.

The information requested relates to provider identities and associated expenditure during a period in which the ICB is undertaking a live procurement process for these services.

Disclosure of this information at this time would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of both the ICB and current or potential suppliers, by revealing commercially sensitive information that could influence bidding strategies, distort competition, or otherwise compromise the fairness of the procurement process.

The information is therefore exempt from disclosure under *Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (Commercial Interests)*.

As Section 43(2) is a qualified exemption, the ICB has considered the public interest test.

Public interest in favour of disclosure:

- Promoting transparency regarding the use of public funds.

Public interest in favour of maintaining the exemption:

- Protecting the integrity and fairness of the ongoing procurement process.
- Avoiding disclosure of commercially sensitive information that could advantage or disadvantage particular bidders.
- Protecting the commercial interests of suppliers participating in the procurement.
- Ensuring the ICB is able to secure best value for public funds through effective competition.

On balance, the ICB considers that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure at this time.

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 Governance and Assurance 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.