

08/05/2026

NN-ICB/26-1570

Dear Requestor

Re: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your request for information, received on 13 April 2026, regarding Fast Track CHC. 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. In 2025, how many referrals of any form were made to the ICB for Fast-Track Continuing Healthcare (CHC)?

In 2025, 3,741 referrals were made to the ICB for Fast-Track Continuing Healthcare.

2. How many of the referrals in question 1 were rejected as inappropriate by the ICB?

227 referrals were rejected as inappropriate by the ICB.

3. Please explain, in general terms, the main reasons for which referrals were deemed inappropriate.

The main reasons for which referrals were deemed inappropriate are listed below:

- CHC funding was already in place.
- Hospital Fast Track - Not ready for discharge.
- Triaged by CHC clinician as not meeting Fast Track criteria.

4. How many of the referrals in question 1 were withdrawn/closed by a) The referrer, or b) The patient/their family.

a) 98 referrals were withdrawn/closed by the referrer.

b) 59 referrals were withdrawn/closed by the patient/their family.

5. How many of the referrals in question 1 were withdrawn/closed as a result of the patient dying before any funding was put in place?

21 referrals were withdrawn/closed as a result of the patient dying before any funding was put in place.

6. In 2025, how many referrals were accepted for Fast-Track Continuing Healthcare?

In 2025, 3,514 referrals were accepted for Fast-Track Continuing Healthcare.

7. In 2025, what was the average timeframe - for Fast-Track CHC referrals that were accepted - between receipt of the completed Fast Track Pathway Tool and the care package being commissioned. Please provide the answer in hours where possible, or otherwise in days. *If data for calendar years cannot be provided, please instead give the average timeframe for the most relevant period for which data can be compiled (for example, December 2025).*

The ICB does not hold this information.

The ICB only records the point the referral is received and the point at which the package of care commences.

8. In 2025, what was the average timeframe - for Fast-Track CHC referrals that were accepted - between receipt of the completed Fast Track Pathway Tool and the funding for the care package being put in place. Please provide the answer in days. *If data for calendar years cannot be provided, please instead give the average timeframe for the most relevant period for which data can be compiled (for example, December 2025).*

The most relevant period for which data can be compiled is December 2025. For those service users who had a referral in December 2025, the average wait time for a package to be put in place was 4.3 days.

9. Please can you explain the decision-making process for Fast-Track Continuing Healthcare referrals, giving details of all criteria involved in the process between receiving the referral and commissioning support? As part of this, please could you explain:

- a) The criteria you use for who can make a Fast-Track CHC referral (for example, are non-NHS medical professionals, care home nurses and/or GPs able to do this?)

Appropriate clinicians can make a Fast-Track CHC referral, i.e.

- GPs;
- Hospital doctors;
- Registered Nurses;
- Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB does not accept Fast Track referrals from non-clinical professionals or non-NHS professionals.

- b) Whether Fast-Track Continuing Healthcare referrals made by an appropriate clinician are subject to further checks by professionals working for, or on behalf of, the ICB before being granted? Please explain this process if so.

Each Fast Track referral received by the ICB will be clinically triaged by one of the CHC Nurses to ensure the criteria has been met for a Fast Track referral. The CHC Nurse will check that the patient is in a rapidly deteriorating condition and if they may be entering a terminal phase.

- c) Whether a patient referred by an appropriate clinician is required to meet further criteria, such as having a primary health need, in order to qualify for Fast-Track support?

A patient being referred onto Fast Track is expected to meet the criteria of being in a rapidly deteriorating condition and that they may be entering a terminal phase. This is the criteria we use for establishing if someone is eligible to be referred onto the Fast Track pathway.

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

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