

Please contact: Access to Information

Team

Email: MLCSU.FOITeam@nhs.net

Direct tel: 01782 916875

7 March 2024

Re: Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000
Ref no: FOI-3739-LSC

Thank you for your request dated 2 January 2024.

We can confirm that the ICB does hold all of the information you requested.

Please find our response to your questions below:

I wish to make an FOI request. Please provide me with the following information for the financial years 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23.

1. All expenditure made by your organisation, in every facet of its operations and purview, on translation, interpretation, and language services.

2020/21 - £113,011

2021/22 - £275,088

2022/23 - £326,068

2. Please provide the aggregated total spent by your organisation and then, if possible, please provide this broken down by particular function for which the service was carried out.

NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria ICB do hold the information however we have applied a Section 12 to this request. Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 allows a public authority to refuse a request if the cost of providing the information to the applicant would exceed the 'appropriate limit' as defined by the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004:

“Section 12 Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

(1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit”.

The Regulations states that the appropriate limit to be applied to requests received by local authorities is £450 (equivalent to 2.5 days of work) for the purposes of the estimate the costs of performing these activities should be estimated at a rate of £25 per hour (£25 x 18hours = £450).

In estimating the cost of complying with a request for information, an authority can only take into account any reasonable costs incurred in:

**“(a) determining whether it holds the information,
(b) locating the information, or a document which may contain the information,
(c) retrieving the information, or a document which may contain the information, and
(d) extracting the information from a document containing it”.**

We have carried out a reasonable and proportionate search to locate all of the documents that relate to the above request for information and outline how this was carried out.

A search has been undertaken to verify that part of this information may be held, but this would be dependent on the content of each invoice. There are over 780 invoices from multiple suppliers which would require reviewing.

Of those 780 invoices, it would take 5 minutes per invoice to determine the content of each invoice. This would take a total of 3900 minutes, which equates to 65 hours in total.

The ICB may be able to provide a response if a singular financial year was requested, but this is not guaranteed, but this would still require an interregation of each invoice.

Right of Appeal

Should you require any further information or clarification regarding this response please do not hesitate to contact us. If you are dissatisfied with the response, you are entitled to request an internal review which should be formally requested in writing and must be within 40 working days from the date this response was issued.

To request an internal review

You can request this by contacting the FOI team by email at MLCSU.FOITeam@nhs.net or by post to Leyland House, Lancashire Business Park, Leyland, PR26 6TR, specifying why you require a review.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the CCGs FOI complaints procedure. The ICO can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner’s Office, Wycliff House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF
www.ico.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Sam Proffitt – Chief Finance Officer

**On behalf of Kevin Lavery
ICB Chief Executive**