

Please contact: Access to Information

Team

Email: [MLCSU.FOITeam@nhs.net](mailto:MLCSU.FOITeam@nhs.net)

Direct tel: 01782 916875

10 April 2024

Dear

**Re: Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000**  
**Ref no: FOI-3930-LSC**

Thank you for your request dated 13 March 2024.

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

Please find our response to your questions below:

1. Re the decision regarding Withnell Health Centre. As a concerned patient who is provided with a first class service from Dr Robinson and her team my question is a simple one. Why are you delaying the process and causing undue anxiety to both staff and to the local community?

**The process of competitive procurement for the contract to provide services at Withnell Health Centre has not been delayed from what was set out in February 2023. The current contract expires on 30 September 2024 and the identified process will work towards that date. Timescales for this exercise were outlined on 22 February 2023 and the ICB is sticking to those timescales.**

2. You have tested the market and surely it is a simple and obvious decision why do not award the contract to Dr Robinson?

**A section 21 exemption has been applied as this information is available publicly. Full details on the market engagement process can be found in the paper that went to the Primary Care Commissioning Committee on 14 March -**

**[https://www.healthierlsc.co.uk/application/files/4617/0983/7881/Item\\_6a\\_-\\_Withnell\\_Health\\_Centre.pdf](https://www.healthierlsc.co.uk/application/files/4617/0983/7881/Item_6a_-_Withnell_Health_Centre.pdf)**

3. Also as a taxpayer can you inform me as a FOI request how much has been spent by the ICB on legal advice? Surely this is money better spent on supporting our under pressure NHS.

**A section 21 exemption has been applied as a previous response in relation to FOI-3901-LSC is available publicly, which answers this question:**

**[https://www.healthierlsc.co.uk/application/files/1917/1213/4275/FOI-3901-LSC\\_-\\_Withnell\\_Health\\_Centre\\_procurement\\_March\\_2024.pdf](https://www.healthierlsc.co.uk/application/files/1917/1213/4275/FOI-3901-LSC_-_Withnell_Health_Centre_procurement_March_2024.pdf)**

## **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](mailto: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, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF  
[www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely

**Neil Greaves – Director of Communications and Engagement**

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