

Our ref:
Please contact:
Email:
Personal assistant:
Direct tel:

04 July 2024

Dear

Re: Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000
Ref no: FOI-4088-LSC

Thank you for your request dated 7 June 2024.

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

Please find our response to your questions below:

1. The ICB's arrangements to enable providers to express an interest in providing services subject to Patient Choice and PSR Direct Award Process B

For services that we already commission and in line with the patient choice regulations, we recognise that some providers may be considering offering healthcare services to patients in the area.

Under the Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulations 2023 we will follow the Direct Award Process B for services that the ICB wishes to provide, or currently provides an 'unrestricted patient choice' service. We will ensure that any providers that express an interest in a service covered by patient choice are evaluated against an agreed qualifying criteria and contracts are awarded compliantly in line with the Provider Selection Regime, following all the relevant steps within the Direct Award Process B (as set out in the legislation and statutory guidance).

We currently operate an accreditation application process which allows providers to express an interest in services in line with the patient choice regulations. We have been refining the process and supporting documentation and are close to all the information being ready to be uploaded onto the ICB website for providers to follow.

A section 22 exemption has been applied as this information is planned to be available via the ICB's website in the public domain over the next few weeks.

In the meantime, providers are still able to express an interest and if eligible to go through the accreditation application process. It is recommended that providers who wish to express an interest should contact their contracts lead or commissioning lead within the ICB in the first instance to commence the process. For providers that are not currently known to the ICB, initial contact with the ICB can be made through ICB general enquiries at iscicb.contactus@nhs.net and your query will be forwarded to the relevant team.

2. The ICB's accreditation process for providers of services subject to Patient Choice and PSR Direct Award Process B

Providers who make an initial approach to the ICB seeking accreditation to deliver a patient choice service will be asked to complete a gateway proforma and return to the ICB. These Gateway forms ask interested organisations to detail the services they are interested in providing under the patient choice regulations.

If the provider passes successfully through the gateway stage, then a comprehensive assessment of the Provider will be undertaken as part of the accreditation application process.

3. The name of the person responsible for Patient Choice at the ICB

For any initial queries or expressions of interest, providers should contact their contracts lead or commissioning lead within the ICB in the first instance to commence the process. For providers that are not currently known to the ICB, initial contact with the ICB can be made through ICB general enquiries at iscicb.contactus@nhs.net and your query will be forwarded to the relevant team.

A section 22 exemption has been applied as information regarding the accreditation application process will be available via the ICB website in in the public domain over the next few weeks.

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 two calendar months 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, Wycliffe 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**