

Please contact: Access to Information Team

Email: MLCSU.FOITeam@nhs.net

Direct tel: 01782 872648

Chorley House
Lancashire Business Park
Centurion Way
Leyland
PR26 6TT

Tel: 01772 214232
www.lancashireandsouthcumbria.icb.nhs.uk

15 February 2023

Dear ,

Re: Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000
Ref no: FOI-2823-LSC

Thank you for your request dated 18 January 2023.

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

Please find our response to your questions below:

I cannot believe that decisions about OUR Health Centre and health care have been made without any consultation with local people.

Our doctors, nurses and ancillary staff at Withnell Health Centre have worked hard for generations to provide a very efficient service to the surrounding villages.

It does appear that a tendering deal has been reached without consultation with the very people who actually use this excellent health centre. I was certainly not made aware, neither have I found ANYONE who was.

Certainly in my village of Withnell Fold people are upset and very annoyed that they have not had ANY opportunity to voice their opinions on THEIR health provision.

Do the views of the great majority of the patients registered at Withnell Health Centre, who are against the current proposals, not have any say? Or if they do have a say what level of importance is given to their views in the decision-making process. It would seem NONE!

It is plain that this process has turned into a fiasco of bureaucratic obfuscation aimed to fulfil the business needs of a large medical, GP practice rather than the needs of LOCAL patients.

This issue is not going to go away. Local people are incensed and motivated to take this matter much further in order to achieve a just resolution.

NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria are not obliged to respond to this request as it is asking for an opinion. Under section (1)(4) of the Freedom of Information act 2000 states that information can be requested if it is held in a recorded format at the time a request is made. However, we can provide you with a link to the website that provides an update on Withnell Health centre consultation.

https://www.healthierlsc.co.uk/application/files/8516/7578/1159/FOI-2782-LSC_Withnell_Health_Centre.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 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 Jubilee 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

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