

Please contact: Access to Information Team

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16 June 2023

Re: Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000
Ref no: FOI-3089-LSC

Thank you for your request dated 24 April 2023.

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

Please find our response to your questions below:

Q1	<p>Your Question:</p> <p><i>Is there a named person/position within the ICB with the responsibility to ensure that the ICB has access to sufficient radiotherapy treatment capacity?</i></p> <p>Our Response:</p> <p>Radiotherapy is a Specialised Service and as such is the Commissioning Responsibility of NHS England rather than the ICB. In line with the NHS England policy document 'Roadmap for the Integration of Specialised Services with Integrated Care Systems' published in May 2022, the Lancashire & South Cumbria ICB are working with NHS England with a view to the commissioning responsibility for Radiotherapy being delegated to the ICB from April 2024. Collectively the ICBs in the North West have agreed that the appropriate planning population for commissioning Radiotherapy in the future will be on a region-wide basis and as such this will be undertaken via a Joint Committee of the three ICBs.</p>
Q2	<p>Your Question:</p> <p><i>Does the ICB have a plan, either internal or published, to ensure that there is a rolling programme of radiotherapy machine replacement to ensure that no machines within the area of the ICB are outside their 10-year recommended lifespan?</i></p> <p>Our Response:</p> <p>Lancashire Teaching Hospitals as our single provider of radiotherapy services has a replacement scheme for linacs that is fully compliant with this requirement.</p> <p>The plan is overseen as part of the NW Radiotherapy Operational Delivery Network.</p>

Q3	<p>Your Question:</p> <p><i>Does the ICB have a plan, either internal or published, to ensure that overall cancer treatment capacity is on target to meet the 13% extra treatment capacity specified in the NHS 2023/24 priorities and operational planning guidance. If the ICB does not have such a plan, by what date will they have one?</i></p>
	<p>Our Response:</p> <p>The requirement in the planning guidance is around having capacity for an estimated 13% additional increase in patients coming through cancer pathways, largely as a result in developments in diagnostics.</p> <p>This does not necessarily translate into a need to create 13% additional physical capacity for all treatment modalities. Developments in radiotherapy are seeing us treating patients with fewer fractions (attendances) creating free capacity from existing resources. At present our view is there is sufficient capacity within available resources to meet the future need of the Lancashire & South Cumbria population.</p> <p>Our surgical restoration programme for cancer and elective care is overseen by the Elective Care Recovery Group and activity is tracked through reporting structures into that group.</p>

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**