

Please contact: Access to Information
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22 December 2023

Re: Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000
Ref no: FOI-3255-L&SC

Thank you for your request dated 22 May 2023, in which a response was provided on 22 June 2023. Following your request for a review dated 27 July 2023, please find enclosed an updated response.

Original request and response:

Q1	Your Question: The COVID 19 pandemic is officially over. What plans are there now for public consultation for this temporary change or is it now permanent and if so how and what consultation was entered into. Have you now conducted an EIA.
	Our Response: The ICB do not have access to this information as this was removed from GP Contracts from legacy organisations within the Primary Care Trust (PCT).
Q2	Your Question: If none of the above have happened, are you able to now give a timescale.
	Our Response: N/A.

Updated request:

I am dissatisfied with this response and request an internal review as specified in your letter.

You have failed to respond to my query about where and how this treatment can now be received, and how this decision to remove it from the GP contract was reached and what consultation was undertaken.

Updated response:

The Directory of Services (DOS) does not provide this level of detail. NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria ICB do not hold a list of ear syringing service providers, whether primary, community or other.

We can confirm that the ICB has not made a specific commissioning decision to change the inherited arrangements for the provision of ear syringing services, however, as the national contract with GP practices does not specify that they must provide ear syringing services, they will have individually decided whether to provide. There is no contractual requirement for practices to notify the ICB of any changes to the provision of this service.

For the majority of people, routine ear syringing is not clinically necessary, and in some cases may do more harm than good. Non-invasive procedures can achieve the same, or better results, and reduce risks

We apologise for the inconvenience of the changes but hope that the DOS provides you with suitable alternatives.

Right of Appeal

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**