

Please contact: Access to Information Team

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15 December 2023

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Re: Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Ref no: FOI-3681-LSC

Thank you for your request dated 24 November 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>The amount spent by the Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board (or the equivalent organisation) on translation and interpretation services over the last five calendar years (broken down by year, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019).</p> <hr/> <p>Our Response:</p> <p>Lancashire and South Cumbria ICB (CCGs prior to July 2022) translation and interpretation spend over the last 5 financial years:</p> <p>23/24 (to Nov-23)- £297,500</p> <p>22/23- £326,068</p> <p>21/22- £275,888</p> <p>20/21- £113,011</p> <p>19/20- £123,974</p>
Q2	<p>Your Question:</p> <p>The breakdown of this data by which languages required were required.</p> <hr/> <p>Our Response:</p> <p>NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria ICB do hold the information however we have applied a Section 12 to this request. Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 allows a public authority to refuse a request if the cost of providing the information to the applicant would exceed the 'appropriate limit' as defined by the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004:</p>

“Section 12 Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

(1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit”.

The Regulations states that the appropriate limit to be applied to requests received by local authorities is £450 (equivalent to 2.5 days of work) for the purposes of the estimate the costs of performing these activities should be estimated at a rate of £25 per hour (£25 x 18hours = £450).

In estimating the cost of complying with a request for information, an authority can only take into account any reasonable costs incurred in:

“(a) determining whether it holds the information,

(b) locating the information, or a document which may contain the information,

(c) retrieving the information, or a document which may contain the information, and

(d) extracting the information from a document containing it”.

We have carried out a reasonable and proportionate search to locate all of the documents that relate to the above request for information and outline how this was carried out.

A search has been undertaken to verify that there are 1800 invoices that each will need to be checked to verify if the information is held by looking at the supplier numbers and the volume of invoices. This will take approximately five minutes per invoice.

1800 invoices x 5 mins = 150 hours

Information requested that could be answered within the 18 hours’ time limit has been provided above in question 1.

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