FOINHSD26/1919

NHS Devon
Aperture House
Pynes Hill
Rydon Lane
Exeter
EX2 5AZ

d-icb.foi@nhs.net

Tel: 01392 205205

Dear,

Re: Request for information under Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

NHS Devon Integrated Care Board (ICB) is confirming in accordance with Section - (1) (a) of the Act, whether it holds the information requested and (b) is supplying it unless otherwise specified.

You requested the following information.

I am seeking to establish how widely ICBs use block contracts for care-home or nursing-home beds that can be used for people eligible for NHS Continuing Healthcare (CHC), and whether their use has changed since ICBs were established.

For this request, a "block contract" means an arrangement under which a specified number or volume of beds is purchased, reserved or guaranteed, including arrangements where payment is made regardless of whether every bed is occupied.

Please include contracts:

- **held directly by the ICB;**
- **jointly commissioned with a local authority; or**
- **commissioned through a pooled budget or other partnership arrangement.**

1. Did your ICB have any such block contracts on:

1. **31 March 2023; and**

No.

2. **the date of this request - 16 September 2026**

No.

2. For each date, please provide:

Not applicable.

1. **the number of block contracts; and**
2. **the total number of beds purchased, reserved or guaranteed under those contracts.**

3. For the contracts in place on the date of this request, please provide:

Not applicable.

1. **the name of each provider;**
2. **the number of beds purchased, reserved or guaranteed;**
3. **the total value of the contract for the current financial year;**
4. **whether payment is guaranteed for all or part of the contracted capacity when beds are unoccupied; and**
5. **the number of these beds that were unoccupied on the most recent month-end date for which figures are available, while remaining covered by the contract.**

Please state the date used for the occupancy figure in question 3(e).

If the term "block contract" is not used by your organisation, please include any equivalent arrangement involving guaranteed volume, reserved capacity, minimum payment or payment for beds regardless of occupancy.

Please include mixed-use contracts where some or all of the contracted beds can be used for people eligible for NHS Continuing Healthcare, even if the beds are not reserved exclusively for them.

If the information is held by a local authority or another organisation acting on the ICB's behalf, please identify that organisation. Where the information is also held by the ICB, please provide it.

If information is not held for 31 March 2023, please provide the nearest available snapshot and state the date used.

If complying with any part of this request would exceed the appropriate cost limit, please fulfil the remaining parts and, under your duty to advise and assist under section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act, explain how the request could be refined to obtain the relevant information within the cost limit.

If the information is not held in exactly this form, please use your duty to advise and assist to provide the closest equivalent information you hold that would establish the ICB's use of block contracts for care-home or nursing-home beds that can be used for people eligible for NHS Continuing Healthcare (CHC).

Satisfaction

We trust this matter has been dealt with to your satisfaction but if there is anything you need clarifying, please do not hesitate to contact the office on 01392 205205 or emailing d-icb.foi@nhs.net Please remember to quote the reference number at the top of this letter in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to request a review of our decision or make a complaint, you can write to the office and arrangements will be made for an independent review. You can write directly to the NHS Devon Chief Executive Officer if you prefer using the "contact us" details displayed on the NHS Devon website.

If you remain dissatisfied with the outcome of the independent review, you have the right to appeal again to the Information Commissioner at:
Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF
Tel: 01625 545 700
Fax: 01625 524 510

Yours sincerely,

The Freedom of Information Office
NHS Devon Integrated Care Board