

Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board

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09 January 2023

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – DECISION NOTICE

Dear Requester

FOI Reference Number: 71891

I refer to your email of 09 November 2023 and clarification email of 07 December 2023 requesting information in relation to Audiology providers.

I can confirm on behalf of NHS Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) and in accordance with S.1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) that we do hold some of the information that you have requested. A response to each element of your request is detailed below.

I am requesting the following information regarding audiology services in your ICB, as a FOI request.

[Clarification - I can confirm that the questions are in relation to over 18's AQP and NHS Audiology services including those delivered within acute hospital services.]

1. Are there AQP providers for audiology in your ICB area?

Yes

If there are AQP providers:

a. Who are the providers?

Under Section 21 of the Act, we are not required to provide information in response to a request if it is already reasonably accessible to you. The information you requested can be found on the NHS Lincolnshire ICB website – I have detailed the relevant link below:

[Lincolnshire Procurement Decisions & Contracts Awarded Register - Localities - Oct 23.xlsx \(icb.nhs.uk\)](#)

b. What is the length, value and end date of each of their contracts?

Please see response to Question 1a.

c. Is there a lead AQP provider?

No

- d. What is the type of AQP agreement? What is the criteria for each agreement i.e. do over 55's go to audiology, or do the AQP work in partnership with audiology and how are patients divided between these providers?**

The service is for patients over the age of 50 and patients can choose which provider they wish to be referred to.

2. What is the current length of the waiting list for audiology appointments?

For the over 50s AQP community hearing loss services: the ICB does not hold this information

For adults (18 – 49) acute based audiology services: Under Section 21 of the Act, we are not required to provide information in response to a request if it is already reasonably accessible to you. The information you requested can be found on the NHS England website – I have detailed the relevant link below: [Statistics » Monthly Diagnostics Data 2023-24 \(england.nhs.uk\)](#).

The position for NHS Lincolnshire ICB patients at the end of Oct-23 was: Total Waiting List - 1,078

- a. How many patients are currently on the waiting list for audiology services?**

For the over 50s AQP community hearing loss services: the ICB does not hold this information

For adults (18 – 49) acute based audiology services: the ICB does not hold this information, however, there are other measures that might be useful in understanding how long patients are waiting:

Number waiting 6+ Weeks - 285

Number waiting 13+ Weeks - 115

Percentage waiting 6+ Weeks - 26.40%

- b. What is the average waiting time for people on the audiology waiting list?**

The ICB does not hold this information. Please see response to question 2a.

- c. Can patients self-refer to audiology? If so, how?**

For the over 50s AQP community hearing loss services: patients over the age of 50 can self-refer into the community audiology providers by contacting one of the contracted providers. Contact details are available on the providers' websites

For adults (18 – 49) acute based audiology services: no.

- d. Who is the lead member of staff responsible for commissioning AQP audiology services? (Name and email address)**

For any queries regarding audiology services you can contact the ICB via the following:

licb.primarycarelincs@nhs.net

I hope that this answers your queries with the information we currently hold, but if I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to

Arden & GEM Greater East Midlands Commissioning Support Unit
FOI TEAM/Corporate Communications Team
1st Floor, St John's House
East Street
Leicester
LE1 6NB

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided the ICB.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: telephone 0303 123 1113,
email icocasework@ico.org.uk and <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/>

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<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>

Yours faithfully

Lindsay Parker
Senior Freedom of Information Officer

**On behalf of
NHS Lincolnshire ICB**