



Lincolnshire
Integrated Care Board

Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board

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18 March 2024

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – DECISION NOTICE

Dear Requester

FOI Reference Number: 72591

I refer to your email of 21 February 2024 requesting information in relation to the RAF Scampton site and asylum accommodation.

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. Please see further details below:

I am aware that the ICB board has been regularly updated on the work being done to mobilise health services when the Home Office open the RAF Scampton site as asylum accommodation.

It has been reported in the media that the Home Office plans to open the site on 14th April. I would be most grateful if you could confirm, under Freedom of Information, the following:

1. that a healthcare provider has been commissioned to provide health services on the site?

I can confirm that service providers have been identified to reflect the understood needs of the population and negotiations are still underway.

2. the name of that provider?

This information is exempt at this time - see the public interest test below.

Public Interest Test

The details of the proposed service providers requested are exempt, at this time, from disclosure into the public domain by virtue of the exemption set at Section 43(2) of the FOIA. Section 43(2) is a prejudice-based exemption and, as such, we are required to assess both the prejudice test and the public interest test in withholding this information against that of its release.

When assessing the prejudice test, we need to demonstrate that there would be an impact on the commercial interests of the ICB or upon a third party should this information be released. To provide the information sought regarding the proposed service providers contracts would, at this time, detrimentally impact on the commercial interests of both the third-party providers and the ICB. This is because the ICB and the providers are still in negotiations regarding these contracts.

To disclose the details of these contracts at this stage would mean that the providers would be disadvantaged as their charging models would be made available. Suppliers compete with one another in a competitive environment and for contracts not just related to the ICB; to provide the exempt information would allow rival companies to undercut the currently proposed providers as they would be able to work out the providers' costs.

The ICB would also be disadvantaged commercially as the release of this information would dissuade suppliers from bidding for services and would therefore impact upon the ICB's ability to obtain best value for money in future procurement exercises.

Any disclosure at this time by the ICB would in future discourage the provision of commercially sensitive information necessary to respond properly to the ICB's 'Invitation To Tender' and would be likely to affect and undermine the ICB's position in any future procurement process or negotiations. Ultimately civil action could be taken against the ICB should information be disclosed that adversely affects the commercial interests of current and/or future suppliers.

There is also an ongoing legal case between the Home Office and the West Lindsay District council over the plans to open the RAF Scampton site as asylum accommodation. The ICB must wait for the outcome of this matter before this procurement process can continue.

We are also required to conduct the public interest test, which assesses whether releasing the information would be in the public interest despite the prejudice test being satisfied. It is important to bear in mind that any disclosure under the FOI Act is a disclosure to the public at large and not just to the applicant. We recognise that there is a general public interest in our being open and transparent. However, we do not believe that this public interest is served in disclosure for the damage that would be caused as outlined above. Disclosure would impact severely on the ICB's ability to get best value for money from the public purse.

Therefore, we consider that releasing this information would not be in the public interest, as the public interest does not outweigh the prejudice as set out above.

3. a copy of the contract, or any letters of intention or similar

Please see response to Question 2

4. unless otherwise clearly stated in the contract to be supplied under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please confirm:

- a. The total value of the contract.**
- b. The contract start date.**
- c. The contract end date.**

Please see response to Question 2

5. the funding offer that has been made by the Home Office to the ICB for the provision of health services at the site?

The Home Office has agreed that funding will be provided to support the following:

- Undertaking health assessments and communicable disease screening upon arrival and for any vaccinations and immunisations in line with UKHSA guidance
- Providing access to on-site health services in line with the BMA's Guidance for Common Health Challenges of Refugees and Asylum Seekers Monday – Friday daytime and Saturday mornings
- Cost of prescribed medications and delivery of prescribed medications to site by community pharmacy provider
- Emergency Dental provision via 111
- Translation service provision by Language Line.

The final funding settlement is subject to the outcome of discussions between the Home Office, Department of Health and Social Care and NHS England.

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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Yours faithfully

Lindsay Parker
Senior Freedom of Information Officer

***On behalf of
NHS Lincolnshire ICB***