



Lincolnshire
Integrated Care Board

Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board

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23 January 2024

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – DECISION NOTICE

Dear Requester

FOI Reference Number: 72275

I refer to your email of 15 January 2024 requesting information in relation to GP practices in and visa sponsor status.

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 information in relation to your request. Please see further details below:

Please find below questions about GP practices in your area and visa sponsor status. GP practices need to have obtained a visa sponsorship license if they want to recruit a GP from outside the UK who needs a skilled worker visa.

How many GP practices in your ICB area are licensed visa sponsors currently?

This information is not held by the ICB. However, I can confirm that we conducted a scoping exercise of GP practices in March 2022 to ascertain how many were licenced visa sponsors. At the time of the exercise, 22 practices responded that they were either currently a licensed visa sponsor or had submitted an application to become a sponsor.

How many GP practices in your ICB area were registered visa sponsors 12 months ago?

Please see previous response.

Is your ICB actively seeking to increase the number of GP practices in the area that are visa sponsors? If so, how?

Yes. Lincolnshire Training Hub (LTH) provides financial support for practices or Primary Care Networks (PCNs) employing staff requiring a tier 2 visa. Currently, we are able to provide funding for the certificate of sponsorship (CoS) and two years of the immigration skills charge (or 50% of the five-year fee). This offer of financial support is promoted on the LTH website, along with a step-by-step guide to the application process for becoming a tier 2 sponsor.

We also promote the offer when speaking to individual practice managers looking to recruit an International Medical Graduate (IMG).

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**