



Lincolnshire
Integrated Care Board

Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board

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18 December 2023

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – DECISION NOTICE

Dear Requester

FOI Reference Number: 71794

I refer to your email of 20 November 2023 requesting information in relation to various strategies held by the ICS.

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.

1. Does your ICS have:

- **Digital Strategy**

The Digital Strategy is exempt from disclosure at this time. See the public interest test below.

Public Interest Test

The information sought in this question is exempt at this time by virtue of the exemption set at Section 22

Section 22 provides that

1. Information is exempt if

a) The information is held by a public authority with a view to its publication, by the authority or any other person, at some future date (whether determined or not).

b) It is reasonable in all circumstances that the information should be withheld from disclosure until the date referred to in paragraph a).

It is recognised that there is a public interest in transparency being demonstrated by releasing the information within this response. However the ICB believes that transparency would also be achieved by the pre-planned publication of this information. This is due to be published in the near future.

There is also a recognised public interest in the ICB providing information held that falls within the scope of a FOIA request as quickly as possible, however this needs to be balanced, taking into consideration the following points

The ICB considers the most important public interest in withholding the disclosure at this time is due to ensuring the maximum cost effectiveness to public funds. Providing this information in response to a FOIA request is not the most cost-effective way of placing this information in the public domain given that there is an intention for it to be published soon. To assess and process the information now in response to a FOIA request would be a duplication of effort and work resulting in an unnecessary expense to public funds.

The release of this information could result in members of the public drawing false conclusions from unapproved, incomplete and/or inaccurate information being disclosed at this time. To publish this information now could effectively give a false picture should the position change, especially in the current constantly changing health climate

To disclose this information now would most likely result in inaccurate information still being in circulation once a final position is published which would be confusing and misleading to the public and potentially lead to complaints received to the ICB

Balance Test

The ICB has determined that on balance it is reasonable at this time to withhold the information from disclosure until the future publication of the information, as detailed above, and that the public interest in favour of maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure due to the persuasive arguments detailed above.

- **Data strategy**
The ICB does not have a data strategy.
- **Cyber security plan**
The individual organisations within the system will have cyber security plans however the ICB does not have a system wide Cyber Strategy.

2. Do you have an ICS-wide strategy for citizen engagement and citizen-facing digital services?

No. NHS Lincolnshire ICB has clear principles and commitment for public involvement and engagement, all of which are highlighted on our webpages [Our principles of engagement - Lincolnshire ICB](#). These **ten principles of engagement**, set out by NHS England in the ICS design framework, have been developed from work with systems across the country and, when embedded effectively, will create a golden thread running throughout the ICS, whether involvement takes place within neighbourhoods, in places or across the whole of Lincolnshire. Engagement is carried out jointly across NHS organisations in Lincolnshire.

We are in the process of finalising our People and Communities Strategy, which further explains our commitment and bring these principles to life. Our annual involvement report [People and Communities Involvement report 2022-23 \(icb.nhs.uk\)](https://www.icb.nhs.uk) explains how we are working towards this strategy and our statutory duties.

3. Do you have an ICS digital inclusion strategy?

We do not currently have a Digital Inclusion Strategy – work is in progress to develop this; we have established a multi-agency strategic group to develop the strategy.

4. Can you please state the number of – and type of IT systems, and the supplier - procured by the ICB on behalf of all relevant NHS providers in the ICS for 2023-24 (both completed and/or planned)? For example: 3 procurements for: bed management system, care traffic control system, waiting list validation system. This information is not held by the ICB.

For questions 1, 2 and 3, if the answers are “yes” – please could you attach the strategies/plans or provide links to them if they are publicly available.

Clarification:

Questions 1,2,3 are based on the What Good Looks Like framework, which sets out NHS England’s expectations and guidance for ICSs to digitise, connect and transform NHS services. Where we use the term “ICS” in this request, we are referring to the integrated care system which is overseen by your Integrated Care Board. We understand that the information requested should be held by the ICB, as the statutory body responsible for NHS services across the ICS.

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***