



**Lincolnshire**  
Integrated Care Board

**Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board**

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## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – DECISION NOTICE**

3 November 2023

Dear Requester

**FOI Reference Number:** 71693

I refer to your email of 8 October 2023 requesting information in relation to pain services.

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. Please provide the names of all providers of pain clinics in the ICB over the past two NHS financial years**  
The main provider is Connect Health [Lincolnshire - Connect Health](#)  
Please see the attached for other providers.
- 2. For each provider, please share the service specification that is (or was) in place**  
Please see the attached specification for the main provider. The ICB does not hold other specifications.
- 3. For each provider, please state the role of the clinician who leads (i.e. is clinically responsible for) the service. I am not interested in personally identifiable information, I am interested in the position, e.g. consultant anaesthetist**  
Please see the link above to the main provider's website. The ICB does not hold the information sought for the providers in the attached.
- 4. For each provider, please provide the total number of referrals received in NHS Financial Year 2022/23**  
Please see attached. For Connect Health the number is 4736.

5. **For each provider, please provide the total number of referrals received in NHS Financial Year 2023/24 YTD (please also provide the cut-off date for this data)**  
Please see attached. For Connect Health the number is 2516 up to September 2023.
6. **For each provider, please state how many of the referrals in NHS Financial Year 2023/24 YTD were made through the e-referral system (eRS)**  
All referrals for the main provider were made via eRS. In the attached we have shown the source of the referrals. Unfortunately the information held does not explicitly indicate if any were made via eRS.
7. **For each provider, please provide the total number of patients who started treatment in NHS Financial Year 2022/23**  
Please see attached. For Connect Health starting treatment: 2022-23 3515; 2023-24 1310.
8. **For each provider, please provide the total number of patients who started treatment in NHS Financial Year 2023/24 YTD (please provide the cut-off date for this data)**  
Please see attached. See above for Connect Health.
9. **For each provider, please provide the total amount the ICB paid for pain services in NHS Financial Year 2022/23**  
Please see attached. The contract value for Connect Health for 2022-23 and 2023-24 is £3,838,000 per annum.
10. **For each provider, please provide the total amount the ICB paid for pain services in NHS Financial Year 2023/24 YTD (please provide the cut-off date for this data)**  
Please see attached. See above for Connect Health.
11. **For each provider, please provide the current size of the waiting list (e.g. 100 patients)** Please see attached. For Connect Health waiting list 711.
12. **For each provider, please provide the current median and mean waiting time**  
Please see attached. For Connect Health median 10 weeks, mean 12 weeks.

Some values are showing as <7. The ICB considers that this information is exempt under Freedom of Information Act 2000, Section 40(2) (personal information) as disclosure of this level of detail could lead to the identification of individuals, which would be in breach of Section 24(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018 and Article 21 of the UK General Data Protection Regulation. Although I cannot confirm the exact figure, I can confirm that the number in each of these categories is fewer than 7.

The FOIA introduces a broader concept of risk of personal identifiable information because its test for deciding whether personal data can be disclosed is whether disclosure to a member of the public would breach the data protection principles. This means that public authorities have to assess whether releasing apparently anonymised data to a member of the public would breach the data protection principles.

This is intended to ensure that public authorities take into account the additional information that a member of the public might have (information on the Web or in news reports, public

libraries, court records etc.) that could allow data to be combined to produce information that relates to and identifies a particular individual - and that is therefore personal data.

Low statistical values increase the likelihood of seemingly anonymised information being combined with other information to identify an individual.

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 decide unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the ICB.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: telephone 0303 123 1113,  
email [icocasework@ico.org.uk](mailto: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  
Corporate Senior Manager  
Arden & GEM CSU

**On behalf of  
NHS Lincolnshire ICB**