



Lincolnshire
Integrated Care Board

Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board

Bridge House
The Point
Lions Way
Sleaford
NG34 8GG

Tel: 01522 573939
Email: licb.office@nhs.net

31 October 2023

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – DECISION NOTICE

Dear Requester

FOI Reference Number: 71703

I refer to your email of 10 October 2023 requesting information in relation to the ICB's Digital Strategy and Shared Care Record.

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.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, could you please provide me with the following:

1. Provide a copy of your ICB's digital strategy

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 was due to be published in April 2023. Unfortunately, the ICB couldn't meet that date due to unprecedented winter pressures. The final plan is now anticipated 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.

2. Do you yet have a regional shared care record?

The ICB is unclear what is meant by regional. However, can confirm there is a shared care record for Lincolnshire (as opposed to the East Midlands region) named the "Lincolnshire Care Portal", hosted by 'United Lincolnshire Hospitals' on behalf of the ICS.

2A. If so, does it include a clinical data repository?

The Lincolnshire Care Portal uses data repositories from the Provider Trusts and National Spine Services, e.g. GP Connect in 'real-time' and presents a contemporaneous record on the screen.

3. If you do not yet have a regional shared care record, do you have any plans for one?

Not applicable

4. Does the ICB have an OpenEHR or other vendor-neutral interoperability strategy in place?

No

4A. If not, is it likely the ICB will develop one?

5. Does the ICB have a Genomics data management strategy and the capability to support predictive healthcare?

No

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**