

Ref: FOI/00434/CMICB  
30 June 2023

Dear,

**Re: Freedom of Information Act 2000  
Payments to HCRG**

Thank you for your information request indicated in bold below, which has now been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 by NHS Cheshire & Merseyside Integrated Care Board (ICB). I am able to provide you with the following information and responses.

Please note from 01 July 2022, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) were disestablished, and their statutory functions and responsibilities inherited by NHS Cheshire and Merseyside ICB.

**Your Request:**

**I live in west lancashire and Ormskirk hospital trust is part of Cheshire and Merseyside ICB. I have noticed that you have started to pay our private provider HCRG from January 2023 but there is no more payments after January as when I look at your website how we spend your money there no payments after January so can you provide me the other payment made to HCRG.**

**Can you also tell me why you have started paying HCRG as their payments were being payed by lancashire ICB.but I think you will send the payment to lancashire ICB to pay.it a bit confusing.**

**Our Response:**

NHS Cheshire and Merseyside ICB has paid invoices to HCRG Care Services Ltd since our existence as an NHS organisation in July 2022. The over £25k spending reports only publish individual invoice payments over the value of £25,000. NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB have paid many other invoices below this value to HCRG Care Services Ltd, however due to the payments being below the £25,000 threshold they are not required to be published within the payments over £25k spending reports.

In terms of the expenditure over £25k report published for January 2023 and the payments listed on this to HCRG Care Services Ltd, this is featured due to payments made in that month where an individual invoice from HCRG Care Services Ltd has exceeded £25k. Since the end of January 2023 we have received further invoices from HCRG Care Services Ltd to the total value of £332,787.

These payments to HCRG Care Services Ltd by NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB relate to non-contract activity for patients registered with a Cheshire and Merseyside ICB member GP practice who have accessed services that are commissioned by NHS Cumbria and Lancashire ICB.

In this case the vast majority of the payments relate to NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB patients accessing services that are being provided by HCRG Care Services Ltd within Ormskirk and Skelmersdale, such as the West Lancashire Urgent Treatment Centre located at Ormskirk District General Hospital, which is operated by HCRG Care Group Ltd. Please note that non-contract activity payments are common within NHS commissioning arrangements and covered by NHS Guidance.

Please note that NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB is currently in the process of uploading its expenditure over £25,000 reports to our website for the months of February 2023 onwards.

Should you require any further information or clarification regarding this response or do not feel that your request has been answered as you would expect, please contact us to discuss.

We also wish to take this opportunity to inform you that, where you are not satisfied with the response to your request for information, a formal complaints and internal review process is available.

This can be formally requested by emailing [foi@cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk) and must be done within a reasonable time period (3 calendar months) from the date this response was issued.

Where you remain dissatisfied with our review under the Freedom of Information Act or the Environmental Information Regulations, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) for a review of your appeal decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our complaints procedure.

The ICO can be contacted at;

*The Information Commissioner's Office*  
*Wycliffe House*  
*Water Lane*  
*Wilmslow*  
*Cheshire*  
*SK9 5AF*  
[www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)

Should you need any further clarification or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us quoting the above FOI reference.