

**Re: Freedom of Information Act 2000
Procurement of Rheumatology Services**

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:

- 1) Have you (or the previous CCGs areas) ever/in the last 6 years contracted with an independent provider to provide rheumatology services, including waiting list initiatives?**
- 2) Do you have an independent provider on patch for rheumatology services? If so, who are the providers and which areas of the ICB do they cover?**
- 3) Which rheumatology services went through procurement and which were a direct award?**
- 4) Actual spend on each contract/framework (and any sub lots), from the start of the contract to the current date and annually**
- 5) Start date & duration of framework/contract/award?**
- 6) Could you please provide a copy of the service/product specification given to all bidders for when this contract was last advertised?**
- 7) Is there an extension clause in the framework(s)/contract(s) and, if so, the duration of the extension?**
- 8) Has a decision been made yet on whether the framework(s)/contract(s) are being either extended or renewed?**
- 9) Who is the senior officer (outside of procurement) responsible for this contract?**

Our Response:

Please find listed below the information held in relation to the commissioned rheumatology services listed in your request for each of the former CCG areas that now make up NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB:

Cheshire

- 1) Yes.
- 2) Yes, *Manchester Surgical Services* and *3Valleys Healthcare*.
- 3) Both as a result of direct award.
- 4) Please find listed below the contract spend for Cheshire on these rheumatology services:

Contract Period	Provider	Spend (£)
November 2019 to January 2023	Manchester Surgical Services	629,119
	3Valleys Healthcare	391,574

- 5) November 2019.
- 6) Please find enclosed '*CCCG Rheumatology Service Spec*'.
- 7) No.
- 8) Yes.
- 9) No specific person designated as being responsible for this contract.

Halton

- 1) No.
- 2) No. Rheumatology services commissioned from NHS acute providers.
- 3) No rheumatology services have been through a procurement exercise or advertised previously in the last six years.
- 4 – 9) Not applicable.

Knowsley

- 1) No.
- 2) No. Rheumatology services commissioned from NHS acute providers.
- 3) No rheumatology services have been through a procurement exercise or advertised previously in the last six years.
- 4 – 9) Not applicable.

Liverpool

- 1) No.
- 2) No. Rheumatology services commissioned from NHS acute providers.
- 3) No rheumatology services have been through a procurement exercise or advertised previously in the last six years.
- 4 – 9) Not applicable.

South Sefton / Southport & Formby

- 1) No.
- 2) No. Rheumatology services commissioned from NHS acute providers.
- 3) No rheumatology services have been through a procurement exercise or advertised previously in the last six years.
- 4 – 9) Not applicable.

St Helens

- 1) No.
- 2) No. Rheumatology services commissioned from NHS acute providers.

3) No rheumatology services have been through a procurement exercise or advertised previously in the last six years.

4 – 9) Not applicable.

Warrington

1) No.

2) No. Rheumatology services commissioned from NHS acute providers.

3) No rheumatology services have been through a procurement exercise or advertised previously in the last six years.

4 – 9) Not applicable.

Wirral

1) No.

2) No. Rheumatology services commissioned from NHS acute providers.

3) No rheumatology services have been through a procurement exercise or advertised previously in the last six years.

4 – 9) Not applicable.

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 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