

Ref: FOI/00356/CMICB
16 May 2023

Dear

**Re: Freedom of Information Act 2000
Investment Prioritisation Within Acute Services Criteria/Formula**

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) Has the Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board used any specific criteria and/or formula to determine investment prioritisation within acute services for the NHS financial year 2023/24?

a) Can the Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board disclose the criteria and/or formula used to determine investment prioritisation in acute services for the NHS financial year 2023/24.

Our Response:

1) For the 2023/23 financial year, NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB has followed national guidance in determining the contract values for acute providers. Therefore, investments in acute services for 2023/24 have been driven by national planning and contracting requirements, supported by national funding and specific business cases approved by the ICB board. NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB is developing its investment prioritisation for all areas should discretionary funding become available in the future to support investments.

Your Request:

2) Has the Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board held any formal meetings since July 2022 to discuss the criteria and/or formula used to determine investment prioritisation in acute services?

a) Can the Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board share a copy of the minutes for all meetings which discussed the prioritisation in acute services since July 2022.

Our Response:

2) NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB has not held any specific acute services prioritisation meetings to discuss a criteria/formula used to determine investment prioritisation in acute services. However, the Board approved the financial plan for the 2022/23 financial year and the financial plan for the 2023/24 financial year will also be sent for approval by the Board. Details of all NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB Board meetings, including the agendas/minutes can be found on our website via the following link: <https://www.cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk/get-involved/meeting-and-event-archive/>

Your Request:

3) Can the Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board disclose which person(s) within the ICS/ICB is/are responsible for ensuring the formula that guides investment prioritisation in acute services, as decided by the Advisory Committee on the Resource Allocation, is properly implemented.

Our Response:

3) NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB's Finance, Investment and Resources Committee is responsible for determining the allocation of resources across the Cheshire & Merseyside Integrated Care System

Your Request:

4) Can the Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board clarify whether they plan to adhere to the Advisory Committee on the Resource Allocation's (ACRA) proposed needs-based allocations methodology to determine the distribution of financial resources for its acute services?

Our Response:

4) NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB is currently in the process of reviewing how resources are allocated to each of its nine Places (former CCG areas) as part of the development of a long-term financial strategy for the Cheshire & Merseyside Integrated Care System.

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

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