

Please contact: Access to Information Team

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06 March 2023

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Dear

**Re: Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000**  
**Ref no: FOI-2900-LSC**

Thank you for your request dated 10 February 2023.

We can confirm that the ICB does hold the information you requested.

Please find our response to your questions below:

Q1	<p>Your Question:</p> <p>Section 1: Risk stratification provision.</p> <p>(1a) Does your ICS employ risk stratification algorithms for population health as defined by NHS England? <a href="https://www.england.nhs.uk/ig/risk-stratification/">https://www.england.nhs.uk/ig/risk-stratification/</a></p> <p>Our Response:</p> <p><b>Yes.</b></p>
Q2	<p>Your Question:</p> <p>(1b) If yes to (1a), who supplies active risk stratification services for your ICS? If performed in-house, please state 'in-house'.</p> <p>Our Response:</p> <p><b>Midlands and Lancashire Commissioning Support Unit (MLCSU)</b></p>

Q3	<p>Your Question:</p> <p>(1c) For each of the suppliers named in (1b), in what year did your ICS start using risk stratification services for each?</p> <p>Our Response:</p> <p><b>The ICB officially formed in July 2022, the CCGs had access before that.</b></p>
Q4	<p>Your Question:</p> <p>(1d) For each of the suppliers named in (1b), how much did the ICS pay for risk stratification services in the financial year 2021/2022?</p> <p>Our Response:</p> <p><b>The ICB does not have a specific cost breakdown, it is part of a block value agreed with MLCSU.</b></p>
Q5	<p>Your Question:</p> <p>Section 2: Using results of risk stratification.</p> <p>(2a) Do you employ risk stratification for hospital admission avoidance across the whole ICS population?</p> <p>Our Response:</p> <p><b>Yes.</b></p>
Q6	<p>Your Question:</p> <p>(2b) Do you employ risk stratification for hospital admission avoidance in particular patient subgroups (e.g. patients with frailty, patients with heart failure, COVID-19 etc)?</p> <p>Our Response:</p> <p><b>Yes.</b></p>
Q7	<p>Your Question:</p> <p>(2c) If yes to (2b), please identify these subgroups.</p> <p>Our Response:</p> <p><b>The Risk Stratification tool allows the user to build their own subgroups which may contain patients with frailty, specific long-term conditions, frequent unplanned hospital activity etc.</b></p>

Q8	<p>Your Question:</p> <p>(2d) If a risk stratification supplier identifies high risk patients, how is this information used to guide clinical decision making? For example - are patient IDs given to general practitioners, or to community outreach or Primary Care Network teams? If different processes are adopted for different risk stratification suppliers, please describe processes individually.</p> <p>Our Response:</p> <p><b>General Practitioners can access patient IDs for their own patients.</b></p>
Q9	<p>Your Question:</p> <p>(2e) Over the year 2021/2022, how many patients were identified as high risk for hospital admission by risk stratification algorithms? If you employ more than one supplier, please describe number of patients identified by each supplier.</p> <p>Our Response:</p> <p><b>The tools do not define what constitutes a high-risk patient. The tools return a risk score, but the users determine what scores (and associated factors) would make a patient high risk clinically.</b></p>
Q10	<p>Your Question:</p> <p>Section 3: Evaluating results of risk stratification.</p> <p>(3a) Have you conducted an evaluation of the impacts from employing risk stratification? For example - the impact on number of hospital admissions.</p> <p>Our Response:</p> <p><b>No.</b></p>
Q11	<p>Your Question:</p> <p>(3b) If so, please provide copies of these evaluations, or a summary of analyses and results.</p> <p>Our Response:</p> <p><b>As above.</b></p>

### **Right of Appeal**

Should you require any further information or clarification regarding this response please do not hesitate to contact us. If you are dissatisfied with the response, you are entitled to request an internal review which should be formally requested in writing and must be within two calendar months from the date this response was issued.

### **To request an internal review**

You can request this by contacting the FOI team by email at [MLCSU.FOITeam@nhs.net](mailto:MLCSU.FOITeam@nhs.net) or by post to Jubilee House, Lancashire Business Park, Leyland, PR26 6TR, specifying why you require a review.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the CCGs FOI complaints procedure. The ICO can be contacted at:

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

Yours sincerely

**On behalf of Kevin Lavery**  
**ICB Chief Executive**