

Freedom of information request NCC-032618-18

Thank you for your recent freedom of information request for the following information:

I was wondering if I could please request details of payments made to pharmacies for locally commissioned NHS or private services, for example smoking cessation, emergency hormonal contraception, supervised consumption of medicines, & needle exchange services.

If you could kindly provide this in spreadsheet(s) format, with a breakdown by pharmacy (name and address), month, service, and payment, I would greatly appreciate it (if you also have the ODS code identifier for the pharmacy, then please kindly include this also). If possible, details of the most recent 12 months' worth of payments.

Our response:

Details of payments made to pharmacies for locally commissioned NHS or private services:

Smoking Cessation, Supervised Consumption of Medicines, & Needle Exchange Services. –

these services are commissioned via our providers as a sub-contract arrangement, therefore Nottinghamshire County Council "NCC" do not hold this information, and you would need to approach the service provider directly for this information. For ease of reference, our service providers are listed in a previous FOI request available online:

<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log-archive#/entry/632247>

Emergency Hormonal Contraception. (EHC) These services are provided through a direct contract between Nottinghamshire County Council and the individual pharmacies in Nottinghamshire.

The breakdown of information you have requested it is not held in a format that allows it to be readily extracted or reported upon to provide a monthly breakdown of payments by individual pharmacy provider. You may be aware that there is a statutory limit to the amount of time authorities are required to spend in order to comply with a request. This is defined in the Appropriate Limit and Fees Regulations as 18 hours. The information requested would be in excess of 10 days for an officer to complete. Specifically: Nottinghamshire County Council contract with 154 pharmacies with 108 of these currently actively delivering EHC. The monthly spreadsheets contain on average 145 claims, each pharmacy invoices for 2 claims logged separately, 1 for consultation and 1 for product used. Collation would require a manual search of each monthly spreadsheet received from PharmOutcomes for claims from each pharmacy (this is not a standard list as pharmacies may or may not claim from month to month). The cost of the consultation and the cost of the product would need to be added for each individual pharmacy for each month as these are provided as separate invoice payments. Payments would then be manually transferred to a collated spreadsheet, and double checked for accuracy. This process would be estimated to take at least 5 minutes per record, with 1,740 records to search (145 x 12 months). . In this case we are denying the response under this FOIA exemption; 12. (1) Section 1 (1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

Emergency Hormonal Contraception. (EHC for the year 2017-18 a total of £34,881.00 was paid to the pharmacies at a tariff of £11.33 per consultation plus the current drug tariff price of the product.

I trust the above information is of assistance to you

If you wish to raise any concerns about the way your request was dealt with, then please write to the Team Manager, Complaints and Information, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP or e-mail foi@nottscc.gov.uk quoting the reference number above.

With kind regards

Lorraine Hayes
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