

Ref: FOI/00014/CMICB
15 September 2022

Your Request:

1) Please supply a copy of the ICB draft financial plan for 2022/23 submitted on the 17th March.

Our Response:

1) NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB does hold a copies of draft financial planning documents for 2022/23. However, NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB has determined that the draft versions of financial plans for 2022/23 fall under Section 22 (information intended for future publication) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

On applying the Public Interest Test, NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB does not believe that information relating to the draft versions of financial planning for 2022/23 should be made available to the public until they have not been finalised or approved. A copy of the final approved version of NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB's financial plan for 2022/23 was presented to the Board on 04 August 2022 and is provided in response to Question 2 below.

Your Request:

2) If a final version of the 2022/23 financial plan has now been submitted, please supply this document.

Our Response:

2) A copy of the final version of NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICBs financial plan for 2022/23 is contained on page 87 of the papers from the Board Meeting held on 04 August 2022. A link to this document is provided below:
<https://www.cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk/media/rl1h0m0y/nhs-cheshire-and-merseyside-icb-040822-updated.pdf>

Your Request:

3) Please supply the specifications and cost of the PA Consulting contract to model a five year financial projection for Cheshire & Merseyside.

Our Response:

3) The work commissioned by PA Consulting from the former Cheshire & Merseyside and Health Care Partnership was initially designed to help support the development of a financial strategy. However, the system took the decision to pause this work so that it could focus on planning for 2022/23 instead due to changes to the national planning deadlines.

NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB does hold documentation from PA Consulting detailing the approach which was originally proposed by them and the costs quoted for this work. However, NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB has

determined that the draft information provided by PA Consulting detailing their proposed approach and the prices quoted are exempt from release under Section 43: 'Trade Secrets and Prejudice to Commercial Interests' of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

On applying the Public Interest Test, NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB believes that release of these draft proposals received from PA Consulting and the prices quoted for this work would, or is likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of PA Consulting. In particular, releasing copies of PA Consulting's proposed methodology in their approach to this work and associated costs quoted could be considered to constitute a trade secret which could provide their competitors with a significant market advantage.

NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB will however be outlining a revised system wide approach to developing a financial strategy over the coming months with a view to having completed this by March 2023, as required by NHS England.

Your Request:

4) Please supply a copy of the five-year financial projection for Cheshire & Merseyside.

Our Response:

4) NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB does hold copies of draft information on five-year financial planning projections. However, as stated in Question 3 above, the ICS has not yet completed its work on a five-year plan of financial projections and details of the national finance regime and system funding allocations have not yet been announced (these are expected December 2022/January 2023).

NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB has determined that the draft information of five-year financial projections it holds also fall under Section 22 (information intended for future publication) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

On applying the Public Interest Test, NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB does not believe that draft information on five-year financial projections should be made available to the public, as they have not yet been finalised or approved. As advised this work is expected to be completed by March 2023.

Your Request:

5) Please supply a copy of the ICB Operational Plan for 2022/23.

Our Response:

5) NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB does not have a formal Operational Plan document for the 2022/23 financial year. However, each NHS organisation in the Cheshire & Merseyside system has produced detailed activity plans which have been signed off by their Board of Directors.