

**Reference: FOI.ICB-2324/382**

**Subject: Continuing Healthcare Applications**

*I can confirm that the ICB does hold some of the information requested; please see responses below:*

QUESTION	RESPONSE
For the 2022/23 financial year:	
<p>1. The total number of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. standard applications</li> <li>b. fast-track applications</li> </ul> <p>that were made to your ICB for NHS continuing healthcare funding?</p>	<p>This information is publicly accessible via the below weblink, as part of the National NHS Continuing Healthcare reporting.</p> <p><a href="https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/nhs-chc-fnc/">https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/nhs-chc-fnc/</a></p>
<p>2. How many of those standard applications were</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. negative (did not meet criteria)</li> <li>b. positive (did meet criteria) but did not proceed to full assessment?</li> </ul>	<p>See question 1.</p>
<p>3. How many of the standard applications proceeded to a full assessment of needs?</p>	<p>See question 1.</p>

<p>4. How many applications were assessed as ineligible for NHS continuing healthcare funding? a. Of those, how many involved an in person face-to-face meeting with the applicant?</p>	<p>4. See question 1.</p> <p>4 a. The information which is being requested is not held in an accessible format. In order to extract the detail required to answer this question, each Decision Support Tool (DST) would need to be reviewed to identify if a face-to-face meeting was held. There have been 1001 assessments and the team have confirmed that to review each set of notes would take 10 minutes. The ICB has calculated that to answer these questions would take approximately 166 hours. This would therefore take more than the 18 hours deemed appropriate under the FOI Act, therefore the ICB has exempted the information under Section 12 (Cost compliance exceeds appropriate limit).</p>
<p>Following a full assessment of needs, can you tell me:</p>	
<p>5. Of those that went to full assessment, how many standard applications involved an in person face-to-face meeting with the applicant?</p>	<p>The information which is being requested is not held in an accessible format. In order to extract the detail required to answer this question, each Decision Support Tool (DST) would need to be reviewed to identify if a face-to-face meeting was held. There have been 1001 assessments and the team have confirmed that it would take 10 minutes to review each set of notes. The ICB has calculated that to answer these questions would take approximately 166 hours. This would therefore take more than the 18 hours deemed appropriate under the FOI Act, therefore the ICB has exempted the information under Section 12 (Cost compliance exceeds appropriate limit).</p>

<p>6. How many were eligible for NHS continuing healthcare? a. Of those, how many involved an in person face-to-face meeting with the applicant?</p>	<p>The information which is being requested is not held in an accessible format. In order to extract the detail required to answer this question, each Decision Support Tool (DST) would need to be reviewed to identify if a face-to-face meeting was held.</p> <p>There have been 1001 assessments and the team have confirmed that it would take 10 minutes to review each set of notes. The ICB has calculated that to answer these questions would take approximately 166 hours.</p> <p>This would therefore take more than the 18 hours deemed appropriate under the FOI Act, therefore the ICB has exempted the information under Section 12 (Cost compliance exceeds appropriate limit).</p>
<p>7. Does your ICB always involve specialists in the assessment of the specific medical condition that the person being assessed for NHS continuing healthcare presents with? For example a Parkinson's nurse, an MS specialist nurse, a neurologist etc.</p>	<p>The ICB (Continuing Healthcare) employ nurses with a range of skills from different backgrounds including MH, learning disabilities and General nurses. The Nurses will contact other professionals involved within peoples care provision and have full access to all medical records including community services and GP.</p>
<p>8. What is the minimum level of training NHS continuing healthcare assessors undertake to understand needs associated with a range of complex long-term conditions?</p>	<p>All senior Nurse assessors have at least 5 years post registration experience within a variety of fields. Once in post they undertake a full induction program which covers the CHC process and the mandatory NHSE CHC training programme. The Nurses have access to a range of specialities within the team and access to other healthcare professionals within the wider system.</p>
<p>9. Please can you complete the table below to show how many applications were completed in relation to the different timescales?</p>	<p>See question 1.</p>

	Less than 4 weeks	4 - 8 weeks	8 - 12 weeks	12 - 26 weeks	
Checklists					
Full Assessment					
Applications for review					

***The information provided in this response is accurate as of 2 February 2024 and has been approved for release by Rosi Shepherd, Chief Nursing Officer for NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB.***