

Reference: FOI.ICB-2526/089

Subject: Late Payments Data

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

QUESTION	RESPONSE
<p>Information on late payment</p> <p>This is a request under FOIA for details of instances in which NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB (including, where applicable, any agencies, bodies, or units for which it is ultimately responsible for supplier payments) has failed to pay its suppliers on time, thereby causing liabilities for late payment compensation and/or interest on late payments to be incurred for the public purse.</p> <p>As the Government has made clear, late payment remains a significant issue for business and a drag on the UK economy as a whole. It is clear that, despite what the law says, many suppliers have not received timely payment or the interest and compensation for late payment to which they are entitled by statute.</p> <p>Public authorities must keep information on payment in order to comply with their legal obligations, and there is a public interest in ensuring both compliance and that unpaid interest and compensation is recovered from public authorities. If proper records are kept as they ought to be, then information in this respect ought readily to be available.</p> <p>The information requested below is not confidential, and its disclosure under FOIA is not capable of adversely affecting any parties commercial interests. This is because this request is aimed at data about late payment liabilities that have in fact arisen: the disclosure of this data cannot cause any additional liability to arise. We therefore do not anticipate any reasonable grounds for refusing this request.</p>	

In any event, there is strong public interest in transparency about these matters. Relevant factors in this respect include: enhancing public understanding and scrutiny of issues of significant importance to stewardship of the public purse and to economic growth; facilitating an informed debate about compliance by your authority with its contractual obligations and with Government policy; helping businesses that suffer from late payment (many of which are small and medium-sized enterprises), and encouraging improvements in payment practices by public authorities such as yours.

Request

With the above points in mind, we request under FOIA that you provide, (preferably in Microsoft Excel or an equivalent machine-readable format) the following information in respect of suppliers which were not paid in within 30 days for the period starting 1 April 2023 to the date of this request:

- 1. Supplier Name**
- 2. Invoice Date**
- 3. Gross Invoice Value**
- 4. Payment Date**
- 5. Late Payment Compensation or Interest Paid (if any)**

Supplier name: BT PLC

Invoice date: 136 invoices dated Sep 19 to Dec 24

Total invoice value: £17,728.93

Payment date: 12 February 2025

Late payment interest: £1,720.00

Please note that the late payment interest was part of a settlement of a debt that included invoices received late and invoices in dispute.

Clarification:

We reiterate that this request:

- (a) is limited to information which should (if proper records are kept) be readily available from a purchase ledger system and should therefore be possible to retrieve without any difficulty and without imposing any significant burden;
- (b) relates to organisations (not individuals) who are entitled to be paid out of public funds for public services, and we do not require the disclosure of any personal information of any individual person;
- (c) does not require the disclosure of any confidential information or information to the production of which there could be any other lawful objection.

The information provided in this response is accurate as of 24th June 2025 and has been approved for release by Sarah Truelove, Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer for NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB.