

Reference: FOI.ICB-2526/298

Subject: Commissioning and Delivery of Left Atrial Appendage Closure (LAAC) Services

I can confirm that the ICB does not hold the information requested; please see responses below:

QUESTION	RESPONSE
	Further to my initial FOI submission, I realised I omitted some contextual information. NHS England has formally delegated 59 specialised services to ICBs and regions (NHS England Board Paper, 5 December 2024 – Annex A). This includes Adult Specialist Cardiac Services, specifically: 13T – Complex Interventional Cardiology, under which LAAC/LAAO sits. NHS England’s “Cascade Delegation: Commissioning Integration” guidance confirms that ICBs now hold responsibility for: - commissioning, - service oversight, - activity and planning, - and implementation of national policies for all delegated services. https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.england.nhs.uk%2Fcontact-us%2Fpr&data=05%7C02%7Cbnssg.foi%40nhs.net%7C4a086f846bfb485f19f408de33468f7e%7C37c354b285b047f5b22207b48d774ee3%7C0%7C1%7C639004575317518320%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOilwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMlslkFOlpoiTWfPbClslldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C80000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ZTW10XgzEEOJF5zyctcGdjZQycK%2FAZH0h7bFCQNfUf8%3D&reserved=0... https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.england.nhs.uk%2Flong-read%2Fcom&data=05%7C02%7Cbnssg.foi%40nhs.net%7C4a086f846bfb485f19f408de33468f7e%7C37c354b285b047f5b22207b48d774ee3%7C0%7C1%7C639004575317544520%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOilwLjAuMDAw

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Given that 13T is a mandated delegated specialised service, this information should now be held by you as the ICB or the regional commissioning hub acting on its behalf.

1. Commissioning Responsibility and Policy Alignment

- a) Which organisation currently holds commissioning responsibility for LAAC (Left Atrial Appendage Closure) services in your region (e.g. regional specialised commissioning team, delegated ICBs, or NHS England national team)?
- b) Does your organisation currently follow the NHS England national commissioning policy for LAAC (2018, updated 2023), or has a local policy or adaptation been developed?

The ICB does not hold this information.

Commissioning responsibility for delegated services such as this should be directed to the Commissioning Hub here:
england.speccommsouthwest-foi@nhs.net

If a local policy, pathway, or protocol exists, please provide a copy or link. c) If a local policy is under development or review, please confirm: i. Expected date of publication or implementation. ii. Whether this is being coordinated with NHS England or local ICBs. d) Has any local clarification or interpretation been issued to providers since the 2023/24 delegation of specialised services? For example, memoranda, board papers, or internal briefings regarding LAAC commissioning responsibilities. If so please provide	
2. Current Service Provision and Activity Levels a) Please list all NHS Trusts or provider sites currently authorised or contracted to deliver LAAC procedures within your region. b) Have any provider sites been rejected to deliver LAAC, and if so why and when? c) Please provide if any new sites are going through approval for delivering LAAC and also when they are expected to be live. d) Has your region set any activity targets, trajectories, or expectations for LAAC growth toward the 1,000-	

procedure national projection referenced in the NHS England commissioning policy? If yes, please provide details or supporting documentation.	
3. Funding and Commissioning Approach a) Under which funding or contracting model are LAAC procedures currently commissioned (e.g. specialised contract, delegated ICB funding, block arrangement, tariff)? b) Has your organisation made any local amendments or clarifications to the national tariff or payment mechanism for LAAC?	
4. Forward Planning for 2026–27 a) Is your organisation undertaking, or planning, a review of LAAC service commissioning as part of its specialised cardiac or cardiovascular plans for 2026–27? b) Has LAAC been referenced in any regional delivery plan, stroke prevention strategy, or specialised cardiac service plan for 2026–27? If so, please provide a copy or extract. c) Who is the designated commissioning or clinical lead for LAAC or specialised cardiac services within your region? (Name and title if publicly available.)	

5. Supporting Information

If available, please share any local needs assessment or modelling undertaken to estimate the potential eligible LAAC population within your region.

The information provided in this response is accurate as of 10 December 2025 and has been approved for release by David Jarrett, Chief Delivery Officer for NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB.