

Reference: FOI. ICB-2526/309

Subject: Block Contracts Analysis

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

QUESTION	RESPONSE
<p>Please provide in full any analysis carried out, in 2024-25 and 2025-26, by your respective ICBs on block contracts for non-elective care, which compare the 'fixed elements' payments to what they would have been on a price x activity basis.</p> <p>The information I'm looking for includes, but is <u>not limited to</u>, the ICB's responses to requests from NHS England for all commissioners to review current block contracts on an Activity X Price (PbR) basis.</p> <p>Please provide data on what the 'fixed element' payments were in 2024-25 and 2025-26, and what they would have been on a price per activity basis, according to the analysis. Break this information down by specialty if this information is available.</p>	<p>The ICB has applied Section 43(2) to this information. Section 42(2) exempts from disclosure information which would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any legal person (an individual, a company, the public authority itself, or any other legal entity). Section 43(2) is a qualified exemption and therefore subject to the public interest test.</p> <p>The public interest argument in favour of disclosing the information includes the ICB's responsibility to be transparent and accountable in its decision making processes and to promote public understanding of processes.</p> <p>The public interest argument in favour of maintaining the exemption includes the ICB's responsibility to secure the best use of public resources and provide value for money. The requested analysis carried out on the block contracts underpins the basis of these ICB contracts and if disclosed would reduce the ICB's ability to negotiate. There are robust commissioning processes in place to ensure that the ICB commissions services which are value for money and competitive.</p>

The ICB has considered the requirement to be transparent in its decision making processes and the ICB publishes a contract register which outlines all contract awards:

[Contract Register - https://bnssghealthiertogether.org.uk/library/icb-contracts-register-clinical/](https://bnssghealthiertogether.org.uk/library/icb-contracts-register-clinical/)

The ICB has considered the balance of both disclosing the information and maintaining the exemption and believes that it is in the public's best interest to apply the exemption to ensure that the ICB can continue to commission services which are value for money.

The information provided in this response is accurate as of 24 December 2025 and has been approved for release by Matt Backler, Interim Chief Finance Officer for NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB.