

Ref: FOI/00317/CMICB
24 April 2023

Dear

**Re: Freedom of Information Act 2000
APMS Contracts**

Thank you for your information request indicated in bold below, which has now been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 by NHS Cheshire & Merseyside Integrated Care Board (ICB). I am able to provide you with the following information and responses.

Your Request:

Please provide:

a) A copy of all the current APMS contracts for general practice in your area.

Our Response:

NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB use the Alternative Provider Medical Services (APMS) contract template publicly available on NHS England's website via the following link: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/alternative-provider-medical-services-contract-nov-22/>

NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB does hold copies of all the APMS contracts with GP Practices. However, NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB considers copies of the actual signed APMS contracts to be commercially sensitive. As a result, NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB is unable to provide you with copies of the actual APMS contracts held with GP Practices 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 contracts into the public domain would, or is likely to, significantly prejudice the commercial interests of the GP Practices as independent providers commissioned to deliver NHS services, as well as providing competitors with a significant market advantage. However, if there is particular information you wish to request that may be contained within these APMS contracts, please let us know and we will be happy to look at providing you with details of this information under the Freedom of Information Act.

Should you require any further information or clarification regarding this response or do not feel that your request has been answered as you would expect, please contact us to discuss.

We also wish to take this opportunity to inform you that, where you are not satisfied with the response to your request for information, a formal complaints and internal review process is available.

This can be formally requested by emailing foi@cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk and must be done within a reasonable time period (3 calendar months) from the date this response was issued.

Where you remain dissatisfied with our review under the Freedom of Information Act or the Environmental Information Regulations, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) for a review of your appeal decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our complaints procedure.

The ICO can be contacted at;

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
www.ico.gov.uk

Should you need any further clarification or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us quoting the above FOI reference.