

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

RF23-378

Request:

It is known that the ICB need to give permission and sign off for any spend over £50,000 that EKHUFT would like to make. It is believed that the ICB have not given permission for anything that the Trust has requested since December 2022.

1. What has EKHUFT requested since the ICB have been signing off these requests, including amounts and reasons for the requested spend?

Specifically, details of requests that EKHUFT have made to the ICB since December 2022, along with any reasons given for rejection.

2. What is the legislation behind the ICB "holding the purse strings" that the ICB are relying on in the course of this duty?
3. What reasons are being given as to why these spending requests are being declined by the ICB?
4. How much of a deficit are EKHUFT's finances currently running at for this year's projected figures - how short are we going to be by 1st April 2024?

Response:

We can confirm East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust (EKHUFT) holds the information you have requested.

1. The Trust has submitted one business case since December 2022 for Cardiac MRI for £500k and this business case was approved.
2. The NHS oversight framework for 2022/23 describes NHS England and NHS Improvement's approach to oversight of integrated care boards (ICBs) and trusts.

This framework outlines NHS England's approach to NHS oversight and is aligned with the ambitions set out in the NHS Long Term Plan and the 2022/23 NHS operational planning and contracting guidance. It also reflects the significant changes enabled by the Health and Care Act 2022 including the formal establishment of integrated care boards and the merging of NHS Improvement (comprising of Monitor and the NHS Trust Development Authority) into NHS England.

3. No business cases have been declined to date
4. Deficit position £1.9m worse than plan as at the end of May 2023. Full year forecast remains on plan at £72m deficit

(DATE OF RESPONSE: 12 JULY 2023)

