

Ref: FOI/00052/CMICB
05 September 2022

Your Request:

1) Does your ICB currently use RPA (Robotic Process Automation)?

Our Response:

1) Currently NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB does not use Robotic Process Automation (RPA) directly as an organisation. Although, members of the Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care System (ICS) do utilise RPA to support recovery, resilience and transformation, better management of patient demands, and resource pressures.

Your Request:

2) Which departments within your ICB currently use RPA?

Our Response:

2) As detailed in response to Question 1, NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB does not currently use RPA directly as an organisation. Therefore, no ICB departments currently use RPA.

Your Request:

3) Which commercial partner is your ICB currently using?

Our Response:

3) As detailed in response to Question 1, NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB does not currently use RPA directly as an organisation. Therefore, there is no commercial partner currently being used.

Your Request:

4) Is the ICB intending to expand the use of RPA?

Our Response:

4) At the start of 2022, the NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB's Digital Programme Team submitted a bid to help nine Trusts within the ICS to secure unified tech funding for digital productivity, to enable them to implement RPA software or build on their automation capabilities. Once this funding was secured, it was drawn down directly by Trust's involved, and the ICB's RPA project was established to monitor the execution and completion of this work. The RPA project lead continues to support the nine Trusts involved locally and has explored how the project could be expanded at a System level, although nothing to date has been formally proposed or agreed.

Your Request:

5) Total Budget spent on RPA?

Our Response:

5) As detailed in response to Question 1, NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB does not currently use RPA directly as an organisation. Therefore, no budget is held for RPA.

Your Request:

6) Forecasted investment in RPA?

Our Response:

6) As detailed in response to Questions 4, NHS Cheshire and Merseyside ICB's Digital Programme team have explored how the RPA project could be expanded at a System level, although nothing to date has been formally proposed or agreed. Therefore, NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB does not currently have any forecasts to date for RPA investment.

Your Request:

7) Which departments have been identified for RPA projects?

Our Response:

7) As detailed in response to Question 1, NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB does not currently use RPA directly as an organisation. Therefore, no ICB departments have been identified for RPA projects.

Your Request:

8) The name of the ICB's current TIE

Our Response:

8) NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB currently uses Trust Integration Engine (TIEs) to support its shared care records platform which is known as "eXchange" and its population health management platform which is known as "CIPHA". The name of the current TIEs in use by NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB is Nextgen MirthConnect.