

IGT_FOI_06_3105_Privatisation of Medical Assessments to 'Now Medical'

Please list all figures going back to the first date NowMedical were engaged in this program of outsourcing these medical assessment and essentially privatising the service;

1. How many applications/cases (please list figures year by year) have been sent to NowMedical? **(6/07- 982) (07/08- 865) (08/09- 1558)**
2. How many applications/cases (please list figures year by year) have come back supporting the applicants application? **(06/07- 186) (07/08- 251) (08/09- 340)**
3. How many applications have (please list figures year by year) come back advising to reject the applicants application? **(06/07-796) (07/08-614) (08/09-1218)**
4. How many applications which were sent to Now Medical have actually been rejected by the Council, regardless of appeals (successful or not)? **None**
5. With regards to the revelation in (D) that it "uses the expertise of five GPs";
 - 5a. How many GPs are employed by NowMedical at present? **Unable to ascertain please contact Now Medical for this information**
 - 5b. How many GPs are actually working on case load at any 1 time by NowMedical? **Two GP's plus access to a psychiatrist.**
 - 5c. With the fact that NowMedical "now advise over 100 housing organisations throughout the UK <http://www.nowmedical.co.uk/>"

Savings compared to the old system, comparison of figures including amount of staff in each case. Case load per member compared to now?

In house cost was £110k approximately per year (2004/5 figure). Now each case costs £30, the cost for 08/09 was £46,740.

6. With regards to (C); When was the exact date when the psychiatrist was appointed to the NowMedical team? **Unable to ascertain, please contact Now Medical for information.**
7. How many cases, were sent to NowMedical for advice before the date revealed in the (please list figures year by year), which had some psychiatric aspect (to their application, which would include such issues as, but not restricted to; depression, anxiety, self-harm, alcoholism, drug addiction, psychosis and suicide risk.
- Please list the above figures separately indicating supporting evidence from medical practitioner (ie; applicants GP, psychiatrist) **We do not distinguish between medical ailments for our stats**
8. With Regards to (E); I would also like to see evidence of the actual savings that have occurred by taking this In-House service and placing it into the Private Sector by engaging NowMedical. Please show evidence for figures before and after employing NowMedical. **Please see question 5b.**

9. Again with regards to (E); I would like to see the evidence/reports etc, produced by the Scrutiny Working Group, when expressing 'considerable dissatisfaction' with this process. **This information is available on website, O/S review report on CBL.**

10. What concerns were/have been raised by the PCT with regards to this companies accuracy and quality of these assessments? please detail. **None**

11. With regards to (F); Has this recent High Court ruling that it was unlawful for Newham Council to outsource their medical checks to 'Now Medical' been taken into account by the council? Does the councils own allocation policy state something similar to Newhams that "all medical assessments will be carried out in-house" thereby leaving the council open to court challenges? **No.**

12. Was this ever the case that council policy explicitly stated something similar to Newhams Policy of keeping medical assessment in-house? If so when and why did this change? **No**

If any part of this request could be refused in any way because it breaks some clause or some similar function of any ACT like the 'Freedom Of Information Act' or the 'Data Protection Act' then could you please contact me and offer advise on how I can revise my request, before actually refusing the request or any part outright. **N/A**