

ICB and Trust privatisation databases - user guide

To understand the motivation for these databases and an overview of NHS privatisation issues, please start with [the Introduction](#).

What follows is a user guide to help you navigate the databases. Of course, you can skip this guide, open the links below, explore, and only come back here if you get stuck.

Getting started

The current versions of the databases are online at:

ICB spending

<https://konpics-icb.fly.dev>

Trust spending

<https://konpics-trust.fly.dev>

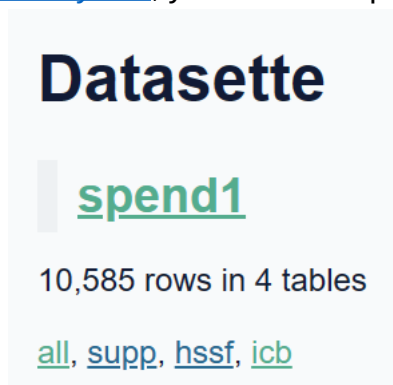
ICB spending covers all 42 ICBs in England.

Trust spending is currently limited to Trusts and Foundation Trusts within Cheshire and Merseyside and North East London.

Both databases use the available monthly reports on expenditure over £25k in the period July 2022 – June 2023. For a particular ICB or Trust the data may be missing some months. There is some variation in the spelling of company names, which we have not corrected. The databases are similar in format, so let's focus on *ICB spending*.

ICB Spending

When you open <https://konpics-icb.fly.dev>, you will see a page with



Datsette is the programme used to design this, but unless you want to make another database you don't need to know about it. **spend1** is the name of this database, which contains 4 tables: **all**, **supp**, **hssf**, and **icb**.

If you click on **spend1**, you will reach a page with some opening text introducing the database, then a section you can skip headed "Custom SQL query", and then links to each of the 4 tables and a very brief list of what each contains.

The lists just show the types of information contained in each table, and will make more sense once you've looked at the tables themselves.

The 'all' table

If you click on **all**, the first table, you will reach this page: <https://konpics-icb.fly.dev/spend1-icb/all> . You should see:

all

Along with the standard search boxes, you can focus on an ICB by pressing the tool icon at the top of the ICB column, then press 'Facet by this'.

For info on the parent company, or on any fields marked '+', press the entry in the click4more column, then follow any links.

6,487 rows

- column - =

Apply

[View and edit SQL](#)

This data as [json](#), [CSV \(advanced\)](#)


Suggested facets: [NHS4Sale](#), [VT](#), [VTUK](#), [HSSF](#)

rowid	Supplier	Sum	ICB	NHS4Sale	VT	VTUK	HSSF	click4more
1	MEDVIVO GROUP LTD	25536461.23	Banes					48
2	HCRG CARE SERVICES LTD	18130165.95	Banes	+			+	9
3	SULIS HOSPITAL BATH LTD	10772461.00	Banes					61
4	CIRCLE HEALTH GROUP LTD	10725181.80	Banes	+	+	+	+	2

Take for example, the fourth line of data which concerns Circle Health Group Ltd and the ICB called "Banes" for short (full name: NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board).

- The "Sum" column shows that Banes spent a total of £10,725,181.80 on Circle Health Group Ltd during the period July 2022 – June 2023. This involved many different payments.
- The "NHS4Sale" column has a "+" to indicate that there is information about Circle on the NHS4Sale website.
- The "+" in the VT column shows there is information about Circle on the Violation Tracker website, and likewise
- The next "+" means there is information in the UK version of the Violation Tracker.

- The final “+” means that Circle is listed on the Health Systems Support Framework.
- And finally, there is a link with the number “2” in the column “click4more” which leads you to more information on all of that. Before we click it, let’s look at the rest of this page.

At the top, there’s a short intro which mentions “Facet”, the term Datasette uses for selecting chosen portions of the data. You don’t necessarily want to know about Banes. You might want North East London. There are two ways to get there, and “Facet” is one route. The column headed “ICB” has a tool icon on the right. ICB  If you press it, a drop down menu appears with options, one of which is “Facet by this”. Selecting that, you reach https://konpics-icb.fly.dev/spend1-icb/all?_facet=ICB . Now on the left of the page you’ll see a list of short names for ICBs, one of which is NELon. If you don’t see the name you want, press the dots at the bottom of the list to extend it. Press NELon to get the data just for North East London. Now Circle turns up in the third line of data. In Banes, the 4th largest amount of ICB spending went to Circle, but in NELon Circle was the 3rd highest recipient.

You may notice near the top of the page, below the intro, a line **198 rows where ICB = "NELon"** and below it, some boxes where you make choices to select the data for the ICB you want. This is the second route, instead of “facet”. The drawback is that you might not know the short name you want, until you see the list which “facet” gives you. If you’re still stuck, see the list at the end of this guide.

Now let’s look at the row for Circle. Whether you are looking at the data for “Banes” or for “NELon”, the columns headed “NHS4Sale” through to “click4more” give the same information as described earlier. Up to now, everything has come from the same table, **all**.

The ‘supp’ table

For further information about the company, you can use the **supp** table by clicking on the ‘2’ in the last column (“click4more”) for the row with Circle (whichever ICB you’re looking at) to get here: <https://konpics-icb.fly.dev/spend1-icb/supp/2> . Or, if you were on the home page, you could select the **supp** table, look for Circle, and then click on its ID. Either way, you should see:

supp: 2

All suppliers, their total income across ICBs, Parent, HQ country, and external links to NHS For Sale, the Violation Trackers for the UK and US, and the Health Systems Support Framework.

This data as [json](#)

ID	Supplier	Sumall	Parent	HQ	NHS4Sale	VT	VTUK	HSSF
2	CIRCLE HEALTH GROUP LTD	281666283.90	Centene	US	https://tinyurl.com/nhs4scircle	https://tinyurl.com/vtcircle	https://tinyurl.com/vtukcircle	https://tinyurl.com/hssfx

Links from other tables

[38 rows](#) from click4more in all
[1 row](#) from supp_ID in hssf

The column headed “Sumall” shows that across all the ICBs, Circle received a total of £281,666,283.90 in the period July 2022 – June 2023. This was the second highest amount nationally, which is why the ID for Circle is “2”. The “Parent” and “HQ” columns show that Circle is owned by Centene, a US corporation. In fact, it is expected to be sold to PureHealth, a company based in the UAE, but the deal won’t be completed until 2024.

The rest of the columns have links you can click to delve into the public evidence, including an overview in NHS4Sale, and details of violations of US and UK law in the VT and VTUK websites. The final column, HSSF, links to the Supplier lists for the Health Systems Support Framework <https://www.england.nhs.uk/hssf/supplier-lists/>. The presence of this link means that Circle is accredited under the HSSF, but to find out more you need to click on the link, open each of the categories, and search its subcategories for Circle. It turns out to be accredited for “Support for implementing shared decision making and self-care programmes”, “Digital and remote technology”, and “Patient pathway optimisation and care model design”.

Now go back to <https://konpics-icb.fly.dev/spend1-icb/supp/2>, the page you reached using “click4more”. At the bottom of the page are **Links from other tables**. One of these shows the 38 ICBs paying Circle. The other one takes you to the relevant bit of the **hssf** table https://konpics-icb.fly.dev/spend1-icb/hssf?supp_ID=2 .

The ‘hssf’ table

1 row where supp_ID = 2

supp_ID = 2

- column - =

Apply

[View and edit SQL](#)

This data as [json](#), [CSV \(advanced\)](#)

hssf_ID	hssf_name	Parent	HQ	hssf_accred	ICBs	Viols_UK	Viols_US	supp_ID
39	Circle Health	Centene	US	3	44	5	216	2

The column headed “hssf_accred” shows that Circle is accredited for 3 topics under the HSSF. The ICB column shows the number of ICB contracts with Circle and other closely related companies. In this case there were 44 such contracts. To see what they are, use the **all** table to find 38 with Circle Health Group, 5 with Circle Clinical Services, and 1 with Circle Hospital (Reading).

Back on the **hssf** page for Circle as shown above, the Viols_UK column shows 5 mentions on the Violation Tracker UK (one concerning Circle Health, and four from BMI Healthcare, which was sold and then replaced by Circle Health Group in 2022), and the Viols_US

column shows 216 mentions of Centene and its subsidiaries on the Violation Tracker. To reach the details, click on the link in the last column, “supp_ID”, to go back to the relevant line of the **supp** page which has links to the relevant pages of the Violation Trackers, from which you can start to explore.

The ‘icb’ table

Finally, there is a short table **icb**. This stands on its own, and can be accessed from **spend1** or at <https://konpics-icb.fly.dev/spend1-icb/icb> . For each ICB it shows the direct spending on private companies (i.e separate to spending by Trusts and Foundation Trusts), and the percentage of total spending on direct spend. Line 43 shows the grand totals: £6,370,040,961.53 direct spending on private companies, around 6.52% of total ICB spending of about £97.7bn.

For Cheshire and Merseyside, the table shows the much higher percentage, 25.86%, when spending by Trusts and FTs on private companies is included. The ICB funds the Trusts and FTs, so it is ICB monies which end up with private companies, either way.

rowid ▼	ICB	Sum_Private_Direct	Sum_all	Direct_Percent	Sum_Private_byTrust	Private_Percent
1	Banes	122818878.99	1628022682.48	7.54		
2	Bedford	81156568.32	1314755923.99	6.17		
3	Bham	132128856.58	2502356652.83	5.28		
4	Black	140143796.24	3211195409.76	4.36		
5	Bristol	329190553.13	1762120658.59	18.68		
6	Buck	108445078.61	3028597656.57	3.58		
7	C&M	285100775.35	5262314279.03	5.42	1075533739.65	25.86
8	Cambs	29138557.69	617295428.93	4.72		
9	Cornwall	70029331.81	1013446197.76	6.91		

For North East London, spending on private companies is 35.24% of the total. If the lower figure for Cheshire and Merseyside is representative of other ICBs, around £25bn of the grand total ICB budget will go to the private sector. Once again, ICBs are only part of the story as NHS England and the Dept of Health and Social Care have their own contracts, including for example the Federated Data Platform, PPE and Test & Trace.

Once you are comfortable navigating *ICB spending*, you will find it easy to understand the *Trust spending* database, whose structure is identical although the **icb** table is replaced by a **trust** table. There’s not much data in it yet, but at least for Cheshire & Merseyside and North East London, Trust and FT spending on private companies is much higher than the direct spending from the ICB.

Going further

These databases are a starting point, to identify which companies are getting contracts in your area, the national picture and a bit of what is known about them. By digging into the linked websites, you can go a lot further.

The actual content of specific contracts is not currently included in the database. But the original spending reports on the ICB and Trust/FT websites, which are not reproduced here, do have a little information. The separate [Introduction](#) shows the content of some contracts with Barts. The reports also show that Optum has a number of ICB contracts concerning prescribing or medicines management. The implications are discussed in the Introduction, and in [ICBs and privatisation](#).

ICB full names and abbreviations in database

NHS Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire	Banes
NHS Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes	Bedford
NHS Birmingham and Solihull	Bham
NHS Black Country	Black
NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire	Bristol
NHS Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West	Buck
NHS Cambridgeshire and Peterborough	Cambs
NHS Cheshire and Merseyside	C&M
NHS Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly	Cornwall
NHS Coventry and Warwickshire	Coventry
NHS Derby and Derbyshire	Derby
NHS Devon	Devon
NHS Dorset	Dorset
NHS Frimley	Frim
NHS Gloucestershire	Glos
NHS Greater Manchester	GMcr
NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight	Hants
NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire	Hereford
NHS Hertfordshire and West Essex	Herts
NHS Humber and North Yorkshire	Humber
NHS Kent and Medway	Kent
NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria	Lancs
NHS Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland	Leic
NHS Lincolnshire	Lincoln
NHS Mid and South Essex	MSEsx
NHS Norfolk and Waveney	Norfolk
NHS North Central London	NCLon
NHS North East and North Cumbria	NE&Cumb
NHS North East London	NELon
NHS North West London	NWLon
NHS Northamptonshire	Nhamp
NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire	Nott
NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin	Shrop
NHS Somerset	Somer
NHS South East London	SELon
NHS South West London	SWLon
NHS South Yorkshire	SYorks
NHS Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent	Staff
NHS Suffolk and North East Essex	Suffolk
NHS Surrey Heartlands	SyHrt
NHS Sussex	Susx
NHS West Yorkshire	WYorks