

Individual Funding Requests

Frequently asked questions

What is an Individual Funding Request (IFR)?

An Individual Funding Request (IFR) is an application made to a funding body (such as the NHS or a local authority) for financial support when standard funding routes are not available.

Who can submit an IFR?

An IFR must be submitted by a healthcare professional, such as a GP, social worker, or another professional involved in your care.

Can Respond help with an IFR application?

- If you have been assessed by Respond, we can provide a structured template with a clinical report to support your application.
- If you have not been assessed by Respond, you will need to seek support from your GP or another referrer.

How long does the IFR process take?

Processing times vary depending on the funding body. It can take several weeks to receive a decision.

What happens if my IFR is declined?

If your IFR is declined, you may:

- Appeal the decision with additional supporting evidence.
- Explore self-funding options or alternative funding sources.

Information on where to apply

England (NHS funding)

- IFRs for therapy are typically submitted to the person's Integrated Care Board (ICB) (formerly known as Clinical Commissioning Groups, CCGs).
- The person's GP or another healthcare professional (e.g., psychiatrist, social worker) usually needs to submit the request on their behalf.
- In some cases, NHS England handles IFRs, particularly for highly specialised services.

Respond

Charity number 800862

respond.org.uk

To find the correct ICB for an application, visit the NHS England website or ask the person's GP.

Wales

- IFRs are submitted to the person's Local Health Board (LHB) via their GP or another healthcare professional.
- Each LHB has its own application process and eligibility criteria.

Scotland

- IFRs in Scotland go through the person's local NHS Health Board and must be supported by a GP or specialist clinician.

Northern Ireland

- Funding requests are managed by the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) or the person's local Health and Social Care Trust (HSCT).

Local Authority or Social Care Funding

- In some cases, local councils or social care teams may be responsible for funding therapy, especially if the therapy is considered part of social care support rather than healthcare.
- If a person has a personal health budget (PHB) or social care funding, they may be able to use it to access therapy.