

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 24-320

NECS – John Snow House
Durham University Science Park
Durham
DH1 3YG

Tel: 0191 301 1300

E-mail: necsu.icbfoi@nhs.net

By Email

26 November 2024

Dear Applicant

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information – NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB)

Thank you for your request received by North of England Commissioning Support (NECS) on 20 November 2024 for information held by NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (the ICB) under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The ICB covers the areas of County Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Cumbria, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland, and Tees Valley (which covers the five local authorities of Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees).

Please find the information you requested on behalf of the ICB as follows.

Your Request

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the following information:

1. For the financial years 2022/23, 2023/24 and current YTD, how many referrals have you received for wet AMD, diabetic macular oedema and retinal vein occlusion (Anti VEGf services) or perhaps referred to as medical retina?
2. For the financial years 2022/23, 2023/24 and current YTD, how many referrals have you rejected as unsuitable or undeliverable by your Trust?
3. For the financial years 2022/23, 2023/24 and current YTD, how many referrals have you received, triaged, booked and completed first assessment and treatment within the 2-week RTT advised by NICE and the college of ophthalmologists? We are looking for your Trust performance data against the 14-day standard as a % by month for the periods 2023/24 and 2024/25.
4. How many patients are currently on a waiting list for an appointment for first assessment and or treatment? How many have breached the 2-week RTT?
5. How many patients are currently on a waiting list for a follow up appointment and treatment? How many of these have waited longer than the requested call back date stated as an outcome of their last assessment (i.e. overdue)? How many are overdue by more than one month?

(We exclude from this any patients who have cancelled / DNA'd or are unable to attend an appointment that has been offered)?

6. Which drugs are your preferred for a new patient? Which drugs do you still use for follow-up patients?
7. Does your trust follow a see and treat "one stop" clinic format?
8. Does your trust follow treat and extend protocols where clinically appropriate?
9. How many patients have you certificated as sight impaired or severely sight impaired in the FYs 2022/23, 2023/24 and year to date due to Wet AMD?

Our Response

We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB on this occasion is not able to provide the requested information. In line with your rights under section 1(1)(a) of the Act to be informed whether information is held, we confirm the ICB does not hold any of the information requested. However, we have determined that the information is held by the acute hospital NHS foundation trusts (FTs) within the North East and North Cumbria region.

In accordance with our duty under s.16 of the FOIA to provide reasonable advice and assistance to an individual requesting information, we have provided the FOI email addresses for those acute hospitals to make your request.

NENC Acute Hospital FTs	Email
County Durham and Darlington NHS FT	cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net
Gateshead Health NHS FT	ghnt.foi.enquiries@nhs.net
North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS FT	foirequest@cumbria.nhs.uk
North Tees and Hartlepool NHS FT	foi@nth.nhs.uk
Northumbria Healthcare NHS FT	foi@northumbria.nhs.uk
South Tees Hospitals NHS FT	foi@stees.nhs.uk
South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS FT	stsft.freedomofinformation@nhs.net
The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS FT	nuth.freedom.information@nhs.net

In accordance with the Information Commissioner's directive on the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 your request will form part of our disclosure log. Therefore, a version of our response which will protect your anonymity will be posted on the NHS ICB website <https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/>.

If you have any queries or wish to discuss the information supplied, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above telephone number or at the above address.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to request a review of our decision, you should write to the Senior Governance Manager using the contact details at the top of this letter quoting the appropriate reference number.

If you are not content with the outcome your review, you do have the right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Generally, the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the North of England Commissioning Support Unit.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

www.ico.org.uk

Any information we provide following your request under the Freedom of Information Act will not confer an automatic right for you to re-use that information, for example to publish it. If you wish to re-use the information that we provide and you do not specify this in your initial application for information then you must make a further request for its re-use as per the Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015 www.legislation.gov.uk . This will not affect your initial information request.

Yours sincerely

S Davies

S Davies
Information Governance Officer