

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 25–534

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

15 April 2026

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 on 30 March 2026 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, Newcastle Gateshead, North Cumbria, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland, and Tees Valley.

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

Your Request

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding the provision of transgender healthcare services in primary care within NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board.

Locally commissioned / locally enhanced services

Please confirm whether the ICB has commissioned, or plans to commission, any locally enhanced service (LES), locally commissioned service (LCS), or equivalent arrangement for transgender patients within primary care.

If so, please provide:

1. The service specification(s) in full.
2. The start and end date(s) of the service.
3. The funding arrangement and total allocated budget (if applicable).
4. A list of GP practices participating in the service.
5. The eligibility criteria for patients.
6. The referral pathway and process for patients registered at practices that are not participating.
7. Any list (if held) of private gender clinics or named providers that GP practices within the ICB area have entered into shared care arrangements with.

If the ICB does not centrally hold information on individual practice-level shared care arrangements, please confirm whether this information is held by Primary Care Networks or GP practices directly.

Equality and impact assessments

Please provide any Equality Impact Assessments, risk assessments, or governance reviews undertaken in relation to transgender healthcare provision in primary care within the ICB area.

If any part of this request is likely to exceed the cost limit, I would be grateful if you could advise how it may be refined to fall within the limit, as required under section 16 of the Act.

If any information is withheld, please specify the exemption relied upon and provide the relevant public interest considerations where applicable.

Our Response

We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB holds some of the information you have requested.

Locally commissioned / locally enhanced services

1. The NENC ICB Primary Medical Care Gender Dysphoria LES Service Specification 2025-27 is attached.
2. The service start date is 01/04/2025 and the service end date is 31/03/2027.
3. The funding arrangement is detailed in section 10 of the attached service specification. The total allocated budget was £489,325 in 2025/26. The budget for financial year 2026/27 is £367,000 plus growth; however, this figure is still to be confirmed.
4. A list of GP practices participating in the service is attached.
5. The eligibility criteria for patients is detailed in the service specification attached.
6. There is no current referral pathway and no process for patients registered at practices that are not participating.
7. NENC ICB does not hold a list or shared care agreements within the north east and north Cumbria region. Local prescribing guidance is available publicly at <https://ntag.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/FINAL-Endocrine-treatment-for-gender-incongruence-NRGDS-October-2025.pdf>

Equality and impact assessments

No equality and impact assessment has been completed on any transgender services in primary care.

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 Information 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 ICB's complaints procedure.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or 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 faithfully

Information Governance Support Officer

**Information Governance Support Officer
North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board**