

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\  
FOI ICB 26–025

North East and North Cumbria ICB  
Pemberton House  
Colima Avenue  
Sunderland Enterprise Park  
Sunderland  
SR5 3XB

Tel: 0191 512 8484  
E-mail: [nencicb.foi@nhs.net](mailto:nencicb.foi@nhs.net)

By Email

29 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 21 April 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**

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we kindly request the following information relating to service configuration, governance and strategic priorities within your organisation.

This request relates to organisational structures and planning only and does not seek patient-level data, commercially sensitive information, or confidential clinical detail.

**Section 1: System Structure & Governance**

1. Have there been any changes to your commissioning or service delivery structures in the past 24 months (including mergers, hosted services, or collaborative arrangements)?
2. Are any services related to respiratory, transplant, or rare diseases commissioned or managed collaboratively (e.g. regional networks, hosted models, or lead-commissioner arrangements)?
3. Are there any planned organisational or governance changes affecting these service areas over the next 12–24 months?

**Section 2: Roles, Committees & Decision-Making**

4. Which committees or governance groups hold responsibility for pathway design and medicines optimisation in:
  - respiratory services
  - transplant services

- rare disease services?
5. Are there any named clinical leads, programme leads or specialist roles associated with these service areas?
  6. Have any new roles or groups been established in the past 18 months that influence pathway design or medicines decision-making?

### Section 3: Strategic Priorities & Pressures

7. Please list any published strategies, transformation programmes or priority documents currently relevant to:
  - respiratory services
  - transplant services
  - rare disease services.
8. Are any of these services currently subject to financial recovery, service sustainability review, or workforce mitigation activity?
9. Are national or regional policy initiatives currently influencing planning in these areas?

### Section 4: Respiratory Services

10. Are respiratory services currently undergoing pathway review or service redesign (e.g. community respiratory, diagnostics, prevention, or virtual wards)?
11. Which respiratory disease areas are identified as priorities within current planning documents (if applicable)?

### Section 5: Rare Disease & Transplant Services

12. How are rare diseases and transplant services overseen within your organisation (e.g. specialist pathways, regional networks, named leads, or national commissioning arrangements)?

## **Our Response**

1. NENC ICB is currently undergoing a restructure. There have been no other changes in the last 24 months.
2. NENC ICB is working with NHS England on delegated specialised commissioning functions.
3. Governance changes are embedded in new ICB commissioning structures. Discussions relating to potential ICB hosting of North East and Yorkshire Office of Pan-ICB Commissioning (OPIC) commencing April 2027, relating to further delegation from NHSE of specialised commissioning functions
4. NENC ICB is not actively involved in the pathway design as a commissioner and does not have a committee that will review these services.

The governance and committee structure responsible for Medicines Optimisation including management of formulary and approval of prescribing guidelines have not changed, nor are there any plans to change them.

Information regarding roles, committees and governance is available at: [NTAG – Northern Treatment Advisory Group](#). In accordance with s.21 of the FOIA, we are not required to provide information in response to a request if it is reasonably accessible to you by other means.

5. NENC ICB is a commissioner and does not hold details of clinical leads for these pathways.
6. The ICB is moving into a new commissioning structure. This is related to national running cost allowance reductions.

7. NENC ICB has no published strategies on respiratory, transplant or rare disease services. These are mainly led by NHS England.

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 for NHS England – [england.contactus@nhs.net](mailto:england.contactus@nhs.net) – to allow you to make your request. Please write “Freedom of Information” in the subject line.

8. Please refer to the response to question 7.  
 9. The NHS 10-year plan and developing strategic commissioning frameworks are influencing ICB planning. Links to these documents are:

[NHS England » Fit for the Future: 10 Year Health Plan for England](#)  
[NHS England » Strategic commissioning framework](#)

10. The ICB is currently embedding ARI Hubs and revised spirometry services.  
 11. 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 contacts for those foundation trusts to make your request.

<b>NENC Acute Hospital FTs</b>	<b>Email/Online portal</b>
County Durham and Darlington NHS FT	<a href="mailto:cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net">cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net</a>
Gateshead Health NHS FT	<a href="mailto:ghnt.foi.enquiries@nhs.net">ghnt.foi.enquiries@nhs.net</a>
North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS FT	<a href="mailto:foirequest@cumbria.nhs.uk">foirequest@cumbria.nhs.uk</a>
North Tees and Hartlepool NHS FT	<a href="mailto:nth-tr.foi@nhs.net">nth-tr.foi@nhs.net</a>
Northumbria Healthcare NHS FT	<a href="mailto:foi@northumbria.nhs.uk">foi@northumbria.nhs.uk</a>
South Tees Hospitals NHS FT	<a href="mailto:stees.foi.admin@nhs.net">stees.foi.admin@nhs.net</a>
South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS FT	<a href="mailto:stsft@infreemation.co.uk">stsft@infreemation.co.uk</a>
The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS FT	<a href="https://www.newcastle-hospitals.nhs.uk/help/foi/">https://www.newcastle-hospitals.nhs.uk/help/foi/</a>

12. Please refer to the response to question 11.

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](http://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](http://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**