

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 24-122

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By Email

2 July 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 21 June 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 2000, I would like to request the following information held by North East and North Cumbria (NENC) subject to FOIA.

1. Could you confirm the value (£) of the NENC financial envelope/allocations agreed/committed to supporting the Virtual Wards programme for the 2024/25 financial year?
2. Could you confirm if any of last year's £700K funding for innovative medical technology as part of the Health Technology Adoption and Accelerator Fund was spent to support virtual wards?

If yes, please could you confirm:

- a. What technology
 - b. The value (£) of the investment
3. Could you confirm, out of the currently reported 511 virtual ward beds capacity, how many/or what percentage is supported by remote patient monitoring?

Our Response

We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB does hold the information requested.

- 1 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. However, this is available within the Disclosure Log on the ICB's website: [Disclosure Log | North East and North Cumbria NHS \(northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk\)](https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/disclosure-log) or please refer to our previous related request, our ref: FOI ICB 24-063 at: [foi-icb-24-063-response-letter.pdf \(northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk\)](https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/foi-icb-24-063-response-letter.pdf)

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.

- 2 In response to question 2, HTAAF funding was used to invest in the technology platform to support virtual wards.
 - a. The virtual ward platform was supplied by NHS HealthCall.
 - b. The value of the investment was £700k, which was spent on this technology, including implementation.
- 3 The current virtual ward capacity is 433 beds in North East and North Cumbria. Of this number, 38% (165 beds) have access to technology enabled virtual ward care. At present, around 10% of patients are actively receiving technology enabled virtual ward 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 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