

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 24-063

NECS – John Snow House
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By Email

29 May 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 8 May 2024 for information held by NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB) under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

NENC ICB covers the areas of County Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Cumbria, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland, and Tees Valley (which covers the 5 councils that make it up – Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees).

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

Your Request

I am emailing under the Freedom of Information Act to request information regarding virtual wards.

1. Do you currently use virtual wards? (Y/N)
2. If **yes**,
 - a. Can you please specify how many virtual wards beds you have and the provider by specialty (Cancer care, respiratory care, cardiology care, diabetes care, stroke care, renal care, pre/post-operative care services, other)?
 - b. How many patients have been admitted in virtual wards, per specialty, for the Financial Years (FY) 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024YTD (Year to Date)?
 - c. What are the values of the contracts you have in place split by specialty and provider?
 - d. What are the durations of the contracts you have in place split by specialty and provider?
3. If **no**,
 - a. If you are not currently using virtual wards, are you planning on using them in the future?
 - b. For which specialties are you planning on using them?
 - c. When would you start?

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. Yes, NENC ICB currently uses virtual wards.
2. Please see responses below:
 - a. Please refer to the attached spreadsheet.
 - b. Please refer to the attached spreadsheet.
 - c. For the contract values by provider for virtual wards, the table below shows what is contained in 2024-25 trust contract mandates. NENC ICB does not hold further detail of this split.

Acute Hospital Trust	£'000
Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	2,058
Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust	933
The Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	1,105
North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust	708
South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust	2,704
County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust	4,279
North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust	1,629
South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	1,850
Total	15,267

- d. Contracts with the Acute Hospital Trust providers are rolling contracts from 1 April to 31 March; these are built into the Trust mandates. The end date of the current contracts is 31 March 2025.

3. The ICB does use virtual wards. Please refer to responses to question 2.

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