

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 24-456

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By Email

28 February 2025

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 22 February 2025 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

Some people who are fully CHC funded, and who need a personal use car as part of their package (an assessed need), are being coerced into paying for their own transport.

In some cases, they are being ORDERED to use their PIP mobility allowance to procure a Motability Car for the essential transport element of their Care and Support.

This "top up" payment in kind is off the record, as CHC cannot invoice a patient for ANY component of their fully funded care needs.

PIP mobility is not means tested and cannot be considered when charges for care are applied.

1. So, can CHC demand that PIP mobility be used towards fully funded CHC care as a "top up" payment?
2. If the answer is yes, what are the circumstances that allow CHC to order the procurement of a Motability Car for a patients Care and Support?
3. Or can CHC demand the non means tested PIP mobility be used towards fully funded CHC care in some other way?

4. If the answer is yes, in what way(s) can CHC force the use of PIP mobility allowance towards fully funded CHC care?

Our Response

On this occasion it is not possible 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.

1. The ICB does not hold information regarding individual benefit claims. You may wish to refer the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) website for this information, using the link [Personal Independence Payment \(PIP\): What PIP is for – GOV.UK](#)
2. Please refer to the response to question 1.
3. Information relating benefits and what they should be used for can be found on the DWP website. Please refer to the link in the response to question 1.
4. Please refer to the response to question 3.

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