

Our Reference      North East and North Cumbria ICB\  
FOI ICB 25–118

North East and North Cumbria ICB  
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By Email

2 July 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 on 26 June 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, 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**

The information that we are requesting below, is for the administrative areas previously known as CCGs that now fall under ICBs.

I am writing under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request disclosure of the following information relating to the procurement of Adult Audiology Services for every CCG under the ICB:

1. *Procurement Process*: A detailed description of the process by which audiology services are procured by your organisation.
2. *Contract Details*:
  - a. The length of the current contract for adult audiology services, including any extension periods that may apply.
  - b. The expiry date of the current contract, inclusive of the longstop extension date.
  - c. The date designated for the next review of adult audiology services.
3. *Service Providers*: The names of the current providers of adult audiology services.
4. *Contract Value*: The estimated full-term value of the contract, including any provisions for the longstop extension period.
5. *Service Development*: Is the ICB currently in the process of reviewing local NHS audiology provisions or intending to review local NHS audiology provision within the next 12 months.

If further clarification is required regarding any aspect of this request, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I would appreciate your response within the statutory time limit of 20 working days. If you consider any of the requested information to be exempt under the Act, I would be grateful if you could specify the grounds for such refusal and advise me of the aspects of my request that may be narrowed to facilitate its disclosure.

## 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. The current audiology services were procured via competitive tendering processes under the Public Contract Regulations 2015. Future audiology services will be procured under the Healthcare Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulations 2023 (PSR) which came into force in January 2024. The process/es by which the services will be procured under the PSR have not yet been determined.
2. Contract details are noted below:
  - a. The length of the current contract for adult audiology services, including any extension periods that may apply is detailed in the table below.

ICB place	2024/25 contract length	Contract start and expiry dates
Tees	3 years	01/07/2023 – 30/06/2025 + 2 years extension
Durham	1 year	01/04/2025 – 31/03/2026 no extension
Sunderland	3 years	01/04/2022 – 31/03/2025 + 2 yrs extension
South Tyneside	3 years	01/04/2022 – 31/03/2025 + 2yrs extension
Gateshead	1 year	01/04/2025 – 31/03/2026 no extension

- b. The expiry date of the current contract, inclusive of the longstop extension date is detailed in the table above.
    - c. NENC ICB is at a very early stage of reviewing the adult hearing provision across the ICB.
3. The following providers currently provide the service:
  - SpecSavers
  - Scrivens
  - Minor Ops
  - North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust
  - County Durham & Darlington Foundation Trust
  - South Tyneside & Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust
4. Contracts are zero based and paid on activity so there is no contract value included within the contracts.
5. NENC ICB is at a very early stage of reviewing the adult hearing provision across the ICB.

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 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**