

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 24–286

NECS – John Snow House
Durham University Science Park
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By Email

8 November 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 15 October 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

Please answer **yes** or **no** to the following questions. In your integrated care or health board.

- a) Do you commission pain services in the community. If yes, please name location/s.
- b) Do you commission pain services in secondary care. If yes, please name location/s.
- c) Do you commission pain services in tertiary care (highly specialised services). If yes, please name location/s.
- d) Do you commission alternative providers to provide pain services. If yes, please name alternative providers and location of services.
- e) Do you commission social prescribers. If yes, please state how many.
- f) In the past three years have you decommissioned pain services in your region? If yes, please list decommissioned services? If yes, are you commissioning alternative services such as Lifestyle Management or similar instead? If yes, please provide details.

Our Response

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.

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- a) The ICB commissions pain services in the community in some ICB places. There is a Chronic Pain management Service (Tier 2) provided in the County Durham area.
- b) The ICB commissions pain services in secondary care in some ICB places. In County Durham, the ICB commissions County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (CDDFT) to provide Specialist Persistent Pain Management Service (Tier 3) across all of County Durham.

In addition, the ICB commission Tyneside Surgical Services, an independent sector provider, to deliver pain services in Gateshead. South Tyneside have a Musculoskeletal Integrated Care contract with Connect Health which includes elements of pain management.

NENC ICB also commissions Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV FT) to provide a Persistent Physical Symptoms service across Durham for patients registered with a GP in County Durham for individuals who are experiencing complex, persistent physical symptoms which have been investigated by physical health services without cause.

Talking Therapies for anxiety and depression services are also commissioned by NENC ICB across County Durham and Darlington and delivered by the provider TEWV FT, primarily working with people who have anxiety and depression caused by or linked to long term conditions, such as chronic pain and chronic fatigue.

We have determined that the information is held by the acute hospital NHS foundation trusts (FTs) within the North East and North Cumbria region for other ICB places.

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 addresses for those acute hospitals to make your request.

NENC Acute Hospital FTs	Email
County Durham and Darlington NHS FT	cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net
Gateshead Health NHS FT	ghnt.foi.enquiries@nhs.net
North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS FT	foirequest@cumbria.nhs.uk
North Tees and Hartlepool NHS FT	foi@nth.nhs.uk
South Tees Hospitals NHS FT	foi@stees.nhs.uk
South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS FT	stsft.freedomofinformation@nhs.net
The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS FT	nuth.freedom.information@nhs.net

- c) No, the ICB does not commissioned pain services in tertiary care. Specialised services are commissioned 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 address for NHS England: england.contactus@nhs.net Please write "Freedom of Information" in the subject line.
- d) NENC ICB commissions alternative providers to provide pain services in some ICB places.

Talking Therapies for anxiety and depression services are commissioned by NENC ICB and delivered by Vita Healthcare in Newcastle. The service works with people who have anxiety and depression which can be caused by or linked to long term conditions which includes chronic fatigue and pain.

- e) 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 – the ICB does not commission social prescribers. However, we have determined that the information is held by the Local Authorities 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 email addresses for those local authorities to make your request.

NENC Local Authorities	Email
Cumbria County Council	information.governance@cumbria.gov.uk
Darlington Borough Council	freedomofinformation@darlington.gov.uk
Durham County Council	foi@durham.gov.uk
Gateshead Council	informationrights@gateshead.gov.uk
Hartlepool Borough Council	freedomofinformation@hartlepool.gov.uk
Middlesbrough Borough Council	foi@middlesbrough.gov.uk
Newcastle City Council	freedomofinformation@newcastle.gov.uk
North Tyneside Council	foiofficer@northtyneside.gov.uk
Northumberland County Council	foi@northumberland.gov.uk
Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council	informationgovernance@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk
South Tyneside Council	foi@southtyneside.gov.uk
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council	foiandcomplaints@stockton.gov.uk
Sunderland City Council	freedom.information@sunderland.gov.uk

- f) No, in the past 3 years the ICB has not decommissioned pain services in the NENC region.

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