

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 26-046

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

29 May 2026

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 1 May 2026 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 purpose of this request is to understand how the authority commissions spirometry and other related respiratory services.

1. How many contracts has the authority awarded for services which include spirometry, including contracts awarded by predecessor CCG organisations in the past three years?
2. How many of these contracts fall into each of the following categories:
 - a. awarded to GP Practices or groups of GP practices under Locally Commissioned Services or Locally Enhanced Services contracts (LCS or LES).
 - b. awarded as part of Community Diagnostic Centre Contracts (CDCs).
 - c. awarded to independent or third sector providers.
 - d. awarded to NHS acute providers.
3. For contracts awarded to independent or third sector providers (2c above) please provide a. the date of contract commencement b. the length of the initial contract c. the maximum extension period of the contract d. the name of the contractor (or contractors if more than one contract) e. whether the contract includes any other services such as Feno or respiratory services.
4. Does the authority plan to commence any procurement processes for services which include spirometry within the next 6 months (ie before 1st November 2026).

5. To the nearest 10%, approximately how many spirometry tests were paid for in the financial year ended 31st March 2026.

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.

North and North Cumbria

Please find the information for North Cumbria, North Tyneside and Northumberland:

Question	North Cumbria	North Tyneside	Northumberland
1	33 contracts	1 contract	6 contracts
2	All awarded to GP practices	Awarded to independent/ third party provider (see attached specification)	All awarded to GP practices
3	See response to question 2.	a. 01/04/24, b. 18 months plus 6 months c. 12 months d. TyneHealth Limited e. includes FeNO	See response to question 2.
4	No	No	No
5	3,210	660	3,252

Newcastle and Gateshead

1. In Newcastle and Gateshead, the contracts are:

Gateshead: 2 contracts were awarded for the following periods:

4 November 2024 – 31 March 2025

1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026

There was a 5-year contract in place prior to 4 November 2024, so no contract was actually awarded in the preceding year.

Newcastle: 2 contracts

1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024

1 April 2024 – 31 March 2027

2. The contracts fall into the following categories:

Gateshead: both contracts were awarded to a GP federation

Newcastle: both were awarded to an NHS Foundation Trust

3. Details of the contracts with GP federation in Gateshead are:

Community Based Care Health Federation Limited: 4 November 2024 – 31 March 2025, no extension period.

Community Based Care Health Federation Limited: 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026, no extension period, includes FeNO.

4. NENC ICB does not plan to commence any procurement processes for services which include spirometry within the next 6 months. Current arrangements are in place until March 2027.
5. Data not yet currently available but for context national spirometry averages show the UK typically performs about 3 to 4 spirometry tests per 1,000 people annually in a standard primary care setting. For context, NHS commissioning guidelines use a baseline model of about 1,518 spirometry tests per year for a standard 500,000 population catchment area.

Central

County Durham

1. In County Durham, the contracts are:
 - CYP Spiro implemented in 2025 in Primary Care due to a gap identified in the regional review.
 - Adult Spirometry was commissioned with County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust in April 2022, following being a Primary Care contract with the CCG.
2. Categorisation information is:
 - Awarded under LCS or LES: one contract in 2025 for CYP Spiro, gap identified under the regional review.
 - Awarded to NHS acute providers: Adult Spiro awarded to NHS Acute Trust who were ARTP Trained on 1 April 2022.
3. No contracts were awarded to independent or third sector providers.
4. A regional review was undertaken and the service is being reviewed this year to understand activity levels across NENC.
5. A total of 4,183 spirometry tests were carried out in 2025/26.

South Tyneside and Sunderland

1. In South Tyneside and Sunderland there is one Spirometry & Feno service provided by GP practices. The 2025/26 contract duration was 01/04/25 to 31/03/26. Please note that 2025/26 and 2026/27 included the new LES Basket of Service, prior to this there was a Quality Premium (QP) and Spiro and Feno were not included in 2024/25.
2. The contract was awarded as a part of local enhanced services.
3. No contracts were awarded to independent or third sector providers.
4. A regional review was undertaken and the service is being reviewed this year to understand activity levels across NENC.
5. Spirometry tests paid for is not information held for South Tyneside and Sunderland.

South

1. Across the Tees Valley – we have issued the following contracts for financial years 2024/25 and 2025/26 as Locally Commissioned Services. We have included the contracts which will be issued for 2026/27. To provide context, we have offered 1-year contracts to PCNs and individual practices (where appropriate) each year. For those that have been unable to offer a service at either a PCN or practice-level, the local GP Federation(s) have been able to provide a service on their behalf.

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Primary Care Networks	8	8	8
Individual GP Practices	24	31	34
GP Federations	3	3	3

2. Categorisation information is provided in the table above. There were no contracts awarded as part of CDCs, or to NHS acute, independent or third-party providers.
3. Please refer to the response to question 2.
4. No, the ICB does not plan to commence any procurement processes for services which include spirometry within the next 6 months
5. There were 6,908 pathways funded across the Tees Valley.

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 Information 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.

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 faithfully

Information Governance Support Officer

**Information Governance Support Officer
North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board**