

Our Reference      North East and North Cumbria ICB\  
FOI ICB 24–504

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By Email

4 April 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 24 March 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**

Please provide details of the following with regards to general practice premises improvements:

1. A list of all the premise improvement grants that have been given to GP practices in your commissioning area since 1 April 2015, including:
  - a. cost of project;
  - b. the type of grant – ETTF, Minor Improvement Grant, etc
  - c. a sentence on what the grant was for.
2. A list of all the rent increase approvals that have been granted to GP practices in your commissioning area due to premises improvements since 1 April 2015, including:
  - a. cost of project;
  - b. a sentence on what improvements were made.
3. A list of all the GP practices who received 'section 106' or 'community infrastructure levy' funding since 1 April 2015 in your commissioning area, including the size of the funding.

## 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. However, we have estimated that to provide you with the required information, would exceed the cost limit of £450 for the NHS as specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004.

S.12(1) of the FOIA provides that a public authority is not obliged to respond to a request for information if the cost of locating, retrieving, and extracting information and preparing the response can be included in the costs for these purposes.

We have carried out a reasonable and proportionate search to locate all the documents that relate to the above request for information and outline how this was carried out:

- There is no central register holding such data.
- There are approximately 477 GP premises in NENC ICB. In order to provide the number of GP Grants awarded, the costs of each project, the rental increases awarded in respect of the improvement works, the detail of the works and those Practices which may have been awarded Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy funding since 2015, NENC ICB would be required to carry out searches of over 477 individual site records.
- Accessing the range of Practice and financial files, plus individual review of each, data extraction and collation at ICB level, would take us approximately 30 minutes per site. This figure is an average taking into the account the different levels of accessibility of records for different sites. For example, additional information may need to be sourced from the District Valuer or other third-party organisations to complete the process, and this would significantly increase the time spent.
- In total, we estimate that providing the number of grants awarded, the costs of each grant and specific detail, in addition to the uplift in rents and the funding source for each for the primary care estate since 2015 would equate to around 238 hours of work, which is considerably over the 18-hour limit.

We do not currently see a way to bring this request in under the 18-hour time limit as the request is seeking to cover a broad range of data.

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](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 sincerely

*S Davies*

**S Davies**  
**Information Governance Officer**