

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 26–027

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

13 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 21 April 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

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 from NHS North East and North Cumbria ICB, preferably in electronic / digital form.

This request concerns commissioned and non-contracted activity (i.e. right to choose) for neurodevelopmental services. Please provide separate information, where held, for each of the following service lines (or, if not available separately, as a combined response clearly identifying what is included within the data):

- Adult autism assessments
- CYP autism assessments
- Adult ADHD assessments
- CYP ADHD assessments
- Adult ADHD medication (splitting titration and ongoing medication pathways if commissioned separately)
- CYP ADHD medication (splitting titration and ongoing medication pathways if commissioned separately)

Please provide the following recorded information held by the ICB at aggregate contract or service level only:

1. For financial years 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26, for commissioned and non-contracted activity (i.e., RTC) for each service line:
 - a. the planned spend and the actual spend;
 - b. the actual activity volume and the actual unit cost; and
 - c. the contracting model or structure used, for example block contract, activity-based contract, framework, spot purchase, Right to Choose, Any Qualified Provider, or equivalent.
2. For financial year 2026/27, for both commissioned and non-contracted activity (i.e., RTC):
 - a. the planned spend;
 - b. where held, the associated planned activity volume and unit cost; and
 - c. the contracting model or structure planned, for example block contract, activity-based contract, framework, spot purchase, Right to Choose, Any Qualified Provider, or equivalent.

Given the April 2026 restructuring of some ICBs, please explicitly indicate which area the data provided relates to and please provide data for all areas managed by your ICB (both in 2026/27 and in previous years).

Please provide information at aggregate contract or service level only. I am not requesting patient or provider-level data. If information is held only in part, under different service labels, or using different activity or cost measures, please provide the closest equivalent information held.

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.

1. With response to question 1:

- a. Actual costs are:

Financial year	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Actual cost	£4,935,581	£12,668,738	£30,541,084

- b. 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 re activity volume and unit cost. The ICB does not track volume numbers, and the unit cost is variable, as this is mainly right to choose and not contracted.
 - c. In past years, NENC ICB has used the following contracting models:
 - Block contracts with locally commissioned NHS Services
 - Right to Choose activity, in line with the NHS Choice Framework, where a GP requests in line with RTC for their patients. These contracts sit with host commissioners nationwide, the contract implied within North East and North Cumbria.
2. 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. However, we have determined that the information is held by

the mental health hospital NHS foundation trusts (FTs) 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 contacts for those foundation trusts to make your request.

NENC Mental Health Hospital FTs	Email
Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS FT	foi@cntw.nhs.uk
Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS FT	tewv.foi@nhs.net

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**