

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 26–266

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By Email

15 September 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 24 August 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

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the following recorded information for the 2025/26 financial year (1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026).

Note: To ensure this request remains well beneath the appropriate cost limit and avoids any potential Section 12 exemption, the scope has been restricted to this single financial year.

Part 1: Independent Baseline – NHS Continuing Healthcare (CHC)

1. The total number of standard CHC checklist assessments or applications received by the ICB, strictly excluding any applications or cases involving a formal declaration of interest or conflict-related recusal by ICB personnel.
2. The average processing time (in calendar days) from initial checklist submission to final eligibility decision for those independent CHC applications.
3. The total number of those independent CHC applications that exceeded the expected 28-day timeline target.
4. The total number of those independent CHC assessments that resulted in eligible (approved) outcomes at the initial decision stage.
5. The total number of those independent CHC assessments that were initially refused but subsequently overturned and deemed eligible following local resolution, appeal, or review.

6. The average age (in calendar days) of unresolved CHC applications currently active within the ICB during the financial year, alongside the age of the single oldest open claim.

Part 2: Independent Baseline – Previously Unassessed Periods of Care (PUPoC)

1. The total number of PUPoC claims received by the ICB, strictly excluding any claims involving a formal declaration of interest or conflict-related recusal by ICB personnel.
2. The average processing time (in calendar days) from initial submission to final determination for those independent PUPoC claims.
3. The total number of those independent PUPoC claims that exceeded the expected 28-day timeline target.
4. The total number of those independent PUPoC claims that resulted in financial restitution at the initial decision stage.
5. The total number of those independent PUPoC claims that were initially refused but subsequently overturned following appeal or review.
6. The average age (in calendar days) of unresolved PUPoC claims currently active within the ICB during the financial year, alongside the age of the single oldest open claim.

Part 3: Staff-Connected / Conflict-Recused Cohort – NHS Continuing Healthcare (CHC)

1. The total number of CHC checklist assessments or applications received where an ICB employee, officer, or board member formally declared a personal or familial interest or formally recused themselves due to a conflict of interest.
2. The average processing time (in calendar days) from initial checklist submission to final eligibility decision for those staff-connected or conflict-recused CHC applications.
3. The total number of those staff-connected or conflict-recused CHC applications that exceeded the expected 28-day timeline target.
4. The total number of those staff-connected or conflict-recused CHC assessments that resulted in eligible (approved) outcomes at the initial decision stage.
5. The total number of those staff-connected or conflict-recused CHC assessments that were initially refused but subsequently overturned and deemed eligible following local resolution, appeal, or review.
6. The average age (in calendar days) of unresolved staff-connected or conflict-recused CHC applications currently active within the ICB during the financial year, alongside the age of the single oldest open claim.

Part 4: Staff-Connected / Conflict-Recused Cohort – Previously Unassessed Periods of Care (PUPoC)

1. The total number of PUPoC claims received where an ICB employee, officer, or board member formally declared a personal or familial interest or formally recused themselves due to a conflict of interest.
2. The average processing time (in calendar days) from initial submission to final determination for those staff-connected or conflict-recused PUPoC claims.
3. The total number of those staff-connected or conflict-recused PUPoC claims that exceeded the expected 28-day timeline target.
4. The total number of those staff-connected or conflict-recused PUPoC claims that resulted in financial restitution at the initial decision stage.
5. The total number of those staff-connected or conflict-recused PUPoC claims that were initially refused but subsequently overturned following appeal or review.
6. The average age (in calendar days) of unresolved staff-connected or conflict-recused PUPoC claims currently active within the ICB during the financial year, alongside the age of the single oldest open claim.

Part 5: General Declarations and Oversight

1. The total number of formal declarations of interest registered by ICB employees concerning family members, relatives, or close personal associates applying for CHC or PUPoC funding.
2. The total number of recorded breaches or investigations relating to undeclared conflicts of interest within the ICB's CHC or commissioning directorates over the 2025/26 financial year.

Our Response

Part 1: Independent Baseline – NHS Continuing Healthcare

1. 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, this is available within the NENC ICB publication scheme which can be accessed on the NHS England website: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/nhs-chc-fnc/>. Therefore, the ICB considers this element of your request exempt from disclosure by way of s.21 as the information is readily accessible by other means.
2. Please refer to the response to question 1, part 1.
3. Please refer to the response to question 1, part 1.
4. Please refer to the response to question 1, part 1.
5. Please refer to the response to question 1, part 1.
6. Please refer to the response to question 1, part 1.

Part 2: Independent Baseline – Previously Unassessed Periods of Care

1. 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, this is available within the NENC ICB publication scheme which can be accessed on the NHS England website: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/nhs-chc-fnc/>. Therefore, the ICB considers this element of your request exempt from disclosure by way of s.21 as the information is readily accessible by other means.
2. Please refer to the response to question 1, part 2.
3. Please refer to the response to question 1, part 2.
4. Please refer to the response to question 1, part 2.
5. Please refer to the response to question 1, part 2.
6. Please refer to the response to question 1, part 2.

Part 3: Staff-Connected / Conflict-Recused Cohort – NHS Continuing Healthcare

1. 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.
2. Please refer to the response to question 1, part 3.
3. Please refer to the response to question 1, part 3.
4. Please refer to the response to question 1, part 3.
5. Please refer to the response to question 1, part 3.
6. Please refer to the response to question 1, part 3.

Part 4: Staff-Connected / Conflict-Recused Cohort – Previously Unassessed Periods of Care

1. 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.
2. Please refer to the response to question 1, part 4.
3. Please refer to the response to question 1, part 4.
4. Please refer to the response to question 1, part 4.
5. Please refer to the response to question 1, part 4.

6. Please refer to the response to question 1, part 4.

Part 5: General Declarations and Oversight

1. For period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026 the ICB's Register of Interests noted there were a total of 6 (six) employees making a declaration of family members, relatives or close personal associates residing in a care home.

The declarations do not identify the names of the residents in a care home setting or the funding arrangements for those individuals. NENC ICB does not hold information if any of the individuals noted above made any application for CHC or PUPoC funding.

2. We can confirm there were no reported breaches during 2025/26.

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**