

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 26-063

North East and North Cumbria ICB
Pemberton House
Colima Avenue
Sunderland Enterprise Park
Sunderland
SR5 3XB

Tel: 0191 512 8484
E-mail: nencicb.foi@nhs.net

By Email

22 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 13 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

We would be grateful if you could provide the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

1. Current Demand and Placement Need
 - a. Does your organisation currently commission or utilise open rehabilitation or step-down rehabilitation services from independent providers?
 - b. Approximately how many individuals are currently placed within open rehabilitation or community rehabilitation settings?
 - c. What are the most common presenting needs requiring this type of placement?
2. Hospital Discharge and Delayed Transfer Pressures
 - a. Approximately how many individuals are currently experiencing delayed discharge from:
 - Acute mental health wards
 - Rehabilitation wards
 - PICU or low secure settings
 - Specialist autism or learning disability services
 - b. What are the most common barriers to discharge?

3. Out-of-Area Placements

Does your organisation currently place individuals outside of its local area for rehabilitation or step-down support? If yes:

- Approximately what proportion of placements are out-of-area?
- What are the primary reasons for out-of-area placements?
- Is reducing out-of-area placements a current strategic objective?

4. Service User Cohorts

- a. What service user groups are currently most difficult to place within community rehabilitation settings?
- b. Are there identified gaps in provision for individuals with:
 - Autism
 - Learning disabilities
 - Dual diagnosis
 - Personality disorder
 - Complex trauma
 - Forensic histories
 - Behaviour that challenges

5. Current Provider Market and Sufficiency

- a. Does your organisation currently identify a shortage of rehabilitation or step-down placements?
- b. Are there specific rehabilitation models or service types currently required but limited in availability?
- c. Does your organisation have a current rehabilitation, mental health, or accommodation sufficiency strategy? If so, please provide a copy or link where available.

6. Placement Models and Support Levels

- a. What support levels are most commonly commissioned?
 - 24-hour staffed rehabilitation
 - Waking-night support
 - Positive Behaviour Support models
 - Transitional or move-on support
- b. What are the most common referral pathways into these services?

7. Spend and Commissioning

- a. What was the approximate total spend on independent rehabilitation or step-down placements in the last financial year?
- b. How are such services typically commissioned?
 - Framework agreements
 - Spot purchasing
 - Approved provider lists
 - Block contracts

8. Quality and Outcomes

- a. What are the most important factors considered when sourcing rehabilitation placements?
- b. What outcomes are considered most important when evaluating placement success?
- c. What are the most common reasons for placement breakdown?

9. Commissioning Contacts

Please provide the structure or generic contact details for the teams responsible for:

- Rehabilitation commissioning
- Complex mental health commissioning
- Learning disability/autism commissioning
- Hospital discharge pathways

Our Response

1. 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 acute hospital NHS foundation trusts (FTs) and 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 contacts for those foundation trusts and local authorities to make your request.

NENC Acute Hospital FTs	Email/Online portal
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	nth-tr.foi@nhs.net
Northumbria Healthcare NHS FT	foi@northumbria.nhs.uk
South Tees Hospitals NHS FT	stees.foi.admin@nhs.net
South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS FT	stsft@infreemation.co.uk
The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS FT	https://www.newcastle-hospitals.nhs.uk/help/foi/

NENC Local Authorities	Email/Online portal
Cumbria County Council	information.governance@cumbria.gov.uk
Darlington Borough Council	freedomofinformation@darlington.gov.uk
Durham County Council	Freedom of Information - Durham CC
Gateshead Council	Freedom of Information request - Gateshead Council
Hartlepool Borough Council	freedomofinformation@hartlepool.gov.uk
Middlesbrough Borough Council	Freedom of Information Request - Middlesbrough BC
Newcastle City Council	freedomofinformation@newcastle.gov.uk
North Tyneside Council	foiofficer@northtyneside.gov.uk
Northumberland County Council	Information Governance - Northumberland CC
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

2. Please refer to the response to question 1.

3. Please refer to the response to question 1.
4. Please refer to the response to question 1.
5. Please refer to the response to question 1.
6. Please refer to the response to question 1.
7. Please refer to the response to question 1.
8. Please refer to the response to question 1.
9. Please refer to the response to question 1.

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**