

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 24-351

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By Email

20 December 2024

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 10 December 2024 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

I am submitting a Freedom of Information request to your organization concerning the oversight of Primary Care Network (PCN) contracts and performance within the North East and Cumbria region. Specifically, I would like information related to the implementation of the requirements set out in the PCN Network Contract, which states:

“A PCN must deliver the minimum 60 minutes per 1,000 PCN-adjusted patients per week within the Network Standard Hours. For the avoidance of doubt, a commissioner may agree to a proportion of the 60 minutes per 1,000 PCN-adjusted patients per week being provided outside of the Network Standard Hours where it is evidenced by the PCN that such appointments would better meet the needs of the PCN’s patients within core hours. Where this is agreed locally, the minutes must be provided in continuous periods of at least 30 minutes.”

For the North Tyneside and North Northumberland PCNs during Q1 and Q2 of the 2024/25 fiscal year, I would like to request the following details:

1. The total number of hours the PCN was required to provide per quarter under this service specification, or alternatively the PCN-adjusted patient population used to calculate this requirement.
2. The total number of hours delivered within the Network Standard Hours (18:30–20:00 Monday to Friday and 09:00–17:00 Saturday).
3. The percentage of the payment awarded to each PCN by the ICS for hours delivered during these quarters.
4. Whether the ICS undertakes audits or collects evidence to confirm that the hours provided are additional to core contractual requirements.
5. Any recorded instances of hours being counted where GPs were performing normal core work (e.g., conducting telephone consultations) during these sessions.

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. 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/publication/network-contract-des-primary-care-network-adjusted-populations-spreadsheet/>

In accordance with s.21 of the FOIA, we are not required to provide information in response to a request if it is reasonably accessible to you by other means.

2. 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.
3. 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/publication/general-medical-services-gms-and-primary-care-network-pcn-income-ready-reckoner-from-1-april-2024/>

List sizes are also available : <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/network-contract-des-primary-care-network-adjusted-populations-spreadsheet/>

In accordance with s.21 of the FOIA, we are not required to provide information in response to a request if it is reasonably accessible to you by other means.

4. Please refer to the response to question 2.
5. Please refer to the response to question 2.

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

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 sincerely

S Davies

S Davies
Information Governance Officer