

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 26–274

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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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 27 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, I would like to request the following information:

1. The average (mean) and median waiting time, in weeks, from initial referral to a first autism diagnostic assessment appointment, for the most recent 12 months for which data is available. Please provide this separately for:
 - a. Children and young people (under 18)
 - b. Adults (18+)
2. The average (mean) and median waiting time, in weeks, from first assessment appointment to a diagnostic outcome being given, for the same period and age groups.
3. The current number of open referrals awaiting a first autism assessment appointment, as of the most recent date for which this data is held, broken down by age group as above.
4. Whether these figures are published anywhere on an ongoing basis (e.g. a public dashboard or board report), and if so, a link to that source.

If it would reduce the burden of responding, monthly or quarterly figures covering the same period are equally useful, and I'm happy to receive this as a spreadsheet or raw data export rather than a formatted report.

If any part of this request would exceed the appropriate cost limit, please contact me to discuss narrowing the scope – for instance, I would still find partial data (e.g. children only, or the most recent quarter only) useful if the full request isn't feasible within the limit.

Please let me know if any of this information is more appropriately directed to another organisation.

Our Response

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 publicly available at: [Autism Waiting Time Statistics – NHS England Digital](#). 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. 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.

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**