



# North East and North Cumbria

Our Reference      North East & North Cumbria  
ICB FOI 325

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27 April 2023

By Email

Dear

**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 14 April 2023 for information held by NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB) under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

NENC ICB covers the areas of County Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, 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 you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care System (ICS). Please may you provide me with the information for the following:

1. Has the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board used any specific criteria and/or formula to determine investment prioritisation within acute services for the NHS financial year 2023/24?
  - a. Can the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board disclose the criteria and/or formula used to determine investment prioritisation in acute services for the NHS financial year 2023/24.

2. Has the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board held any formal meetings since July 2022 to discuss the criteria and/or formula used to determine investment prioritisation in acute services?
  - a. Can the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board share a copy of the minutes for all meetings which discussed the prioritisation in acute services since July 2022.
3. Can the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board disclose which person(s) within the ICS/ICB is/are responsible for ensuring the formula that guides investment prioritisation in acute services, as decided by the Advisory Committee on the Resource Allocation, is properly implemented.
4. Can the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board clarify whether they plan to adhere to the Advisory Committee on the Resource Allocation's (ACRA) proposed needs-based allocations methodology to determine the distribution of financial resources for its acute services?

## **Our Response**

*The NENC ICB has investment and business case policies to review potential areas for investment.*

*The ICB is in the process of setting plans for 23/24 which has not yet concluded but is in general looking to follow, subject to affordability constraints, investments within national planning assumptions and guidance. Most acute services are subject to national mandate arrangements and as such Non-Elective spend which rolls over plus inflation and Elective which moves to PBR. Funding for any other acute investments will be minimal other than general uplift factors bar any nationally directed or supported investments such as diagnostics or virtual wards.*

*The criteria to assess all investments is included within ICB policy and will be concluded at Board. Due to minimal investments other than those discussed there are no formal minutes to share on specific investments referred to in the FOI.*

*The responsibility of reviewing material investments and the criteria sits with the Finance, Performance and Investment Committee and then the Board.*

*Our understanding is that ACRA needs-based formula assesses and advises NHSE on the allocation of resources at place level made up of a number of different elements rather than directing or determining the distribution of resources to a specific sector of the NHS.*

*The ICB has a Resource Allocation Group that works with system partners to review and advise the ICB on the best and fairest application of resources.*

In line 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 make a complaint or 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 complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. 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.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.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](http://www.legislation.gov.uk) . This will not affect your initial information request.

Yours sincerely

*Pamela Coxon*

**Pamela Coxon**  
**Information Governance Officer**