

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\  
FOI ICB 24–229

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By Email

1 October 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 4 September 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 writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please provide the following information:

1. Does your organisation commission cognitive interventions, including Cognitive Stimulation Therapy (CST), as part of post-diagnostic services for dementia patients?
2. What is the current allocated budget for cognitive interventions, specifically CST, for the 2024/25 financial year?
3. Please provide the budget allocations for CST for the financial years 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24.
4. Please provide the overall budget allocation for memory services.
5. What is the average waiting period for patients to access commissioned cognitive interventions, including CST?
6. Who are the main providers of your cognitive interventions to dementia patients?
7. What recorded plans or strategies does your organisation have to expand access to CST?
8. How many CST groups are currently commissioned to run concurrently across your area?
9. Does your organisation commission online CST services? If so, how many online CST groups are funded per year?

10. What is the current funding model for CST provision in your area?

If you need any clarification or have any questions about this request, please don't hesitate to contact me. I would be grateful if you could confirm receipt of this request.

I look forward to receiving your response within 20 working days, as stipulated by the Act.

### 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. Yes, across the NENC ICB in North Cumbria, Newcastle, North Tyneside, Newcastle, Gateshead, South Tyneside & Sunderland, County Durham and Tees Valley
2. These services are provided as part of a block contract and costs are not broken down to this level.
3. These services are provided as part of a block contract and costs are not broken down to this level.
4. These services are provided as part of a block contract and costs are not broken down to this level.
5. 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. However, we have determined that the information is held by Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust (CNTW FT), Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS FT (TEWV), Age UK Durham and Age UK North Tyneside.

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 email addresses for those mental health hospitals (CNTW and TEWV) to make your request.

<b>NENC Mental Health Hospital FTs</b>	<b>Email</b>
Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS FT	foi@cntw.nhs.uk
Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS FT	tewv.foi@nhs.net

6. CNTW, TEWV, Age UK North Tyneside and Age UK Durham.
7. In response to this question:

In North Cumbria, South Tyneside and Sunderland places, there are no plans. The service is not provided in Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland ICB places.

Durham system is currently updating dementia plan and priorities. This work is ongoing, but increasing access to CST is included within the considerations.

Tees Valley Local Delivery Team has a commissioned service in place which is monitored via contract management arrangements. Access is monitored as part of these arrangements and plans are implemented as and where it is deemed required in response to any access concerns. We have an overarching ICB-wide strategy in place which considers access to health services. The strategy does not make specific reference to CST.

8. Please refer to the response to question 5.

9. Please refer to the response to question 5.

10. NENC ICB commissions CNTW and TEWV to provide Cognitive Stimulation Therapy on a block payment basis as part of a wider inpatient and community services contract. Age UK Durham is paid on a block basis. Age UK North Tyneside are also paid on a block payment basis as part of a wider community contract.

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](http://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](http://www.legislation.gov.uk) . This will not affect your initial information request.

Yours faithfully

*S Davies*

**S Davies**  
**Information Governance Officer**