

Our Reference      North East and North Cumbria ICB\  
FOI ICB 25–393

**North East and North Cumbria ICB**  
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Sunderland  
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By Email

6 January 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 22 December 2025 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**

I would like to request the following records under the FOI Act. The request relates to your staff who are responsible for prescribing budgets in your ICB. Please state:

1. The numbers of people at each band listed below. For each, please provide the numbers employed during the month of December 2024 and the month of December 2025:
  - a. Band 8c
  - b. band 8d
  - c. band 9
  - d. Above band 9
2. The name of your current chief pharmacist and their job band.
3. The name of your current medicines optimisation lead and their job band.

**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. The numbers of people at each band are:

Band	Numbers employed December 2024	Numbers employed December 2025
Band 8c	4	6
Band 8d	1	1
Band 9	1	1
Above band 9	5	5

2. We do not have anyone employed under the job title 'Chief Pharmacist'; however we do have a 'Director of Medicines and Pharmacy', Ewan Maule, at Band 9.
3. NENC ICB does not have a 'Medicines Optimisation' lead.

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](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

*Information Governance Support Officer*

**Information Governance Support Officer  
North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board**