

Our Reference      North East and North Cumbria ICB\  
FOI ICB 25–356

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

23 December 2025

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 2 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**

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the following information:

1. A list of all external suppliers, contractors, or partner organisations who currently fall within the remit of the NHS Data Security & Protection Toolkit (DSPT) for your organisation. This includes any supplier that handles patient data, accesses NHS systems, or provides digital, software, cloud, data-processing, or cyber-security services requiring DSPT compliance.
2. A list of any new, incoming, or planned suppliers (contracted or due to go live within the next 12 months) who will fall within the DSPT remit for the same reasons.
3. For each supplier identified in Q1 or Q2, please confirm (if recorded):
  - Whether they are required to maintain a “Standards Met” DSPT submission
  - The date you last checked or verified their DSPT status (or expected verification date for new suppliers)
4. Does your organisation maintain an internal register or log of DSPT-relevant suppliers (including planned or onboarding suppliers)?
  - If yes, please provide the relevant extract.
  - If no, please confirm that no such register exists.

If you require clarification on any point, I will be happy to refine the request.

## Our Response

1. 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. 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 NHS North of England Commissioning Support (NECS).

In accordance with our duty under s.16 of the FOIA to provide reasonable advice and assistance to an individual requesting information, the contact email for NECS is [england.contactus@nhs.net](mailto:england.contactus@nhs.net). Please write "Freedom of Information" in the subject line.

To note, NECS have access to patient systems and currently have met standards met for the toolkit, as per the link <https://www.dsptoolkit.nhs.uk/OrganisationSearch/OAR>

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](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**