

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 24-485

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By Email

27 March 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 by North of England Commissioning Support (NECS) on 10 March 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, 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 submit a Freedom of Information request regarding the costs associated with outpatient psychiatry assessments and appointments commissioned by your authority.

Specifically, I would be grateful if you could provide the following information for the most recent financial year available:

1. The total spending by the ICB on outpatient psychiatry appointments.
2. The average cost per assessment/appointment for the following outpatient psychiatry services:
 - ADHD assessments
 - Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) assessments
 - General mental health assessments
 - Drug and alcohol assessments
 - Child psychiatry assessments
 - Follow-up psychiatry appointments
3. If available, a breakdown of the above costs distinguishing between assessments carried out by NHS providers and those commissioned from private providers.

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 majority of spend by NHS North-East and North Cumbria ICB on outpatient psychiatry appointments is part of a wider block contract with our NHS mental Health providers, the majority of which is with Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne & Wear NHS FT (CNTW), and Tees, Esk & Wear Valleys NHS FT (TEWV).

As such we do not breakdown the costs with them to individual services, although the providers themselves may be able to provide this information.

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 foundation trusts to make your request.

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

2. For general mental health assessments, child psychiatry assessments and follow-up psychiatry appointments, the response is as per question 1. Where ADHD and ASD assessments are undertaken within an NHS setting this response is also true.

For ADHD and ASD there is some provision from non-NHS providers. In respect of ADHD assessments charges range from £400 to £1,500 depending on provider and also the extent of service provision that this covers. Similarly, for ASD assessments the range is £1,000 to £2,000 per assessment, again dependant on provider and extent of service provision.

With regards drug and alcohol assessments these services are commissioned by Local Authorities as part of the Public Health remit.

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 local authorities to make your request.

NENC Local Authorities	Email
Cumbria County Council	information.governance@cumbria.gov.uk
Darlington Borough Council	freedomofinformation@darlington.gov.uk
Durham County Council	foi@durham.gov.uk
Gateshead Council	informationrights@gateshead.gov.uk
Hartlepool Borough Council	freedomofinformation@hartlepool.gov.uk
Middlesbrough Borough Council	foi@middlesbrough.gov.uk
Newcastle City Council	freedomofinformation@newcastle.gov.uk
North Tyneside Council	foiofficer@northtyneside.gov.uk
Northumberland County Council	foi@northumberland.gov.uk
Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council	informationgovernance@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk

South Tyneside Council	foi@southtyneside.gov.uk
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council	foiandcomplaints@stockton.gov.uk
Sunderland City Council	freedom.information@sunderland.gov.uk

3. Please refer to the responses to questions 1 and 2

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

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 sincerely

S Davies

S Davies
Information Governance Officer