

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 25–464

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

26 February 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 11 February 2026 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, I am requesting the following information regarding the commissioning and delivery of ADHD and autism assessments via the NHS Right to Choose pathway in your Integrated Care Board (ICB) area.

Please provide the most recent available data (as of [insert current date, e.g., February 2026], or the latest reported figures if more recent data is unavailable).

1. Current waiting lists / demand for assessments:
 - a. The total number of people currently waiting for an adult (18+) ADHD assessment via NHS-commissioned services (including both local NHS pathways and Right to Choose providers).
 - b. The total number of people currently waiting for an adult (18+) autism assessment via NHS-commissioned services (including both local NHS pathways and Right to Choose providers).
 - c. If available separately: the number of people waiting specifically via Right to Choose referrals (or an estimate/indication of the proportion).
 - d. The same information as above, but for children and young people (under 18), if your ICB commissions or holds data for neurodevelopmental assessments in that age group via Right to Choose.

- e. Median and longest reported waiting times (in weeks or months) for adult ADHD and adult autism assessments in your area (via any NHS-funded route, including Right to Choose).

2. Indicative Activity Plans (IAPs) or activity limits:

- a. Details of any current Indicative Activity Plans (IAPs), activity caps, funding limits, or restrictions applied to Right to Choose providers for adult ADHD and/or autism assessments in the current financial year (or most recent period).
- b. The total number of assessments (or indicative activity volume) allocated or agreed for Right to Choose providers for adult ADHD and adult autism in the current financial year.
- c. Any planned changes to IAPs, caps, or commissioning for the next financial year.

3. Commissioning of new providers:

- a. The name(s), job title(s), and direct email address(es) (or team inbox if individual contact is not available) of the person(s) or team responsible for commissioning / procuring new or additional providers for ADHD and/or autism assessment services under the Right to Choose framework.
- b. Any current open procurement/framework opportunities, expressions of interest, or processes for approving new Right to Choose providers for adult ADHD and/or autism assessments.
- c. If no such process is currently open, the anticipated timeline for the next review or commissioning round for additional providers.

If any part of this request is likely to exceed the appropriate cost limit, please advise which parts could be provided within limit and provide those first, or suggest how the request could be refined. I would prefer the information in electronic format (PDF or spreadsheet where applicable).

Thank you for your assistance. I look forward to your response within the statutory 20 working days.

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. Current waiting lists / demand for assessments:

- a. We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB on this occasion is not able 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 the mental health hospital NHS foundation trusts (FTs) and Right to Choose (RTC) providers within the North East and North Cumbria region.

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 contacts for those foundation trusts to make your request. We have also provided a list of RTC providers.

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

Right to Choose Providers
ADHD 360
Atrom Mindcare
Berkeley Psychiatrists
Care ADHD
Clinical Partners
Community Assessment Services
Dr J and Colleague
Evolve Psychology
Harrow Health
Health Harmonie Minds
Held health
Help for Psychology Services
KT Healthcare
LaTahzan
Mind Professionals
Oakdale Centre
Owl Centre
Paloma (Your Patient Choice)
Problem Shared
Provide Wellbeing
Psicon
Psychiatry-UK
RTN Medical
RTN Mental Health Solutions
Skylight

- b. Please refer to the response to question 1a.
- c. Please refer to the response to question 1a.
- d. Please refer to the response to question 1a.
- e. Please refer to the response to question 1a.

2. Indicative Activity Plans (IAPs) or activity limits:

- a. The ICB is currently still in the process of agreeing activity plans with providers. Referral criteria under the Right to Choose is based on the [NHS Choice Framework](#).
- b. Please refer to the response to question 2a.
- c. Please refer to the response to question 2a.

3. Commissioning of new providers:

- a. The Contracting and Procurement Team is responsible for commissioning/procuring new or additional providers for ADHD and/or autism assessment services under the Right to Choose framework. Please direct all queries to the team using the ICB's generic mailbox nencicb-sun.reception@nhs.net marked for their attention. Alternatively, please telephone the ICB's Switchboard on 0191-512-8484.
- b. The instructions for expressing an interest to become an accredited provider with the ICB are:

How to express an interest in delivering services to NENC ICB under Patient Choice

Please follow the below steps:

1. Log in to the supplier portal at <https://health-family.force.com/s/Welcome>
2. Locate the opportunity in 'Find Opportunities' (Patient Choice Accreditation 2 - North East and North Cumbria ICB (Project Reference Number – **C350309**))
3. Select 'Register Interest' – 'Confirm'.
4. From your Home page select 'Click Here' under 'My Proposals and Quotes'.
5. The questions are located within the 'Requirements Section'
6. Once all questions are completed, please click on 'Submit'.

c. Please refer to the response to question 3b.

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.

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 faithfully

Information Governance Support Officer

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