

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 25–221

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

10 September 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 8 September 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

1. Do you have an in-house Occupational health service for employees or is it commissioned?
2. For the last financial year (or the latest year for which you have data), how many cases of long-term sickness absence did you have? Please include cases where the absence lasted four weeks or more.
3. For these long-term sickness absence cases, what is the mean average time for referral to Occupational health from the start of the period of sickness absence? If the date of referral is not available, please report the average time from start of long-term sickness to the date of the Occupational health appointment. Please use calendar days rather than working days for simplicity.
4. Please provide the number of employees subject to long term sickness absence who were not referred to Occupational health during this period and exclude these cases from the above average.

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. Occupational health is a commissioned service.

2. There were 148 cases of long-term sickness in the last financial year.
3. We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB does not hold any of the information requested. Last financial year this service was outsourced.
4. Please refer to the response to question 3.

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**