

Our Reference      North East and North Cumbria ICB\  
FOI ICB 25–185

North East and North Cumbria ICB  
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By Email

12 August 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 6 August 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, I would like to request the following information:

1. Does this ICB plan to remove the executive role of nurse leader who is a board member (for example, chief nurse, chief nursing officer, nursing director) from its leadership structure in the near future?
2. Has this ICB held discussions about potentially removing the executive role of nurse leader who is a board member (for example, chief nurse, chief nursing officer, nursing director) from its leadership structure in the near future?
3. If yes to question 1 or 2, what is the timescale. Is this likely to happen within the next three months, within the next six months or within the 12 months, or longer?
4. If yes to question 1 or 2, what are the ICB's overriding reasons for removing this senior nursing role from the leadership structure?
5. If yes to question 1 or 2, in the future absence of a senior nurse from the board/executive leadership structure, how does the ICB plan to get advice on nursing matters or input from a nurse on decisions?
6. If yes to question 1 or 2, in the future absence of a senior nurse from the board/executive leadership structure, which role in the ICB will lead on quality, safety and experience?
7. If yes to question 1 or 2, in the future absence of a senior nurse from the board/executive leadership structure, which role(s) in the ICB will lead on safeguarding, CHC and SEND?

## 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. However, it is exempt from disclosure because it is intended for future publication. It is considered that it is reasonable to withhold the requested information prior to publication because the composition of board structures will be published as part of the new ICB structure following a consultation process in financial year 2025/26.

We believe that following the established date of publication is sensible, in line with accepted practices, and fair to all concerned. It is acceptable to manage the availability of this information by planning and controlling its publication, as the timetable for publication enables internal consideration of the information prior to its public release.

When considering the application of this exemption we are required to assess the public interest in withholding or disclosing the requested information. There is evidently a public interest in the structure of ICBs, however, this is best served by preventing the disclosure of that information ahead of the ICB's predetermined timescale. It is considered that the public interest is to enable the ICB to finalise, approve and publish this information in the near future. We would therefore argue the public interest is adequately served by the existing publication date, pursuant to the ICB's existing intentions.

Therefore, on this occasion, we consider the public interest in withholding the requested information outweighs the public interest in providing the requested data at this time.

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 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**