

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 24–395

NECS – John Snow House
Durham University Science Park
Durham
DH1 3YG

Tel: 0191 301 1300
E-mail: necsu.icbfoi@nhs.net

By Email

5 February 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 14 January 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

We note that the following localities within the ICB which are currently “non-live” for NHS Adult routine Audiology AQP services are Northumberland, North Cumbria, North Tyneside and Newcastle. Please could you provide:

1. Plans and timescales for when NHS adult routine audiology AQP services will be extended into these localities?
2. Contact details (name, job title, email address and phone number) for the operational, commissioning and clinical leads for NHS audiology services in each of these localities?
3. Names of the hospital trusts currently providing routine NHS adult audiology services in these localities and the following details:
 - a. The percentage share of overall routine NHS adult audiology activity provided by each trust in each locality.
 - b. Their average waiting time for referral to assessment and assessment to fitting of hearing aids.
 - c. Annual hearing assessment and hearing aid fitting totals (split into monaural/binaural fittings).

- d. Contact details (name, job title, email address and phone number) for the operational and clinical leads for NHS audiology services for each hospital trust.

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. Plans and timescales for when NHS adult routine audiology AQP services will be extended into these localities are noted by ICB place, below:

Newcastle place: There are no plans to date to expand the current audiology provision to AQP in Newcastle.

North Cumbria place: There are no plans to date to expand the current audiology provision to AQP in North Cumbria.

North Tyneside and Northumberland places: There are no plans to date to expand the current audiology provision to AQP in North Tyneside and Northumberland.

2. Contract details are as follows:

Newcastle place: Please contact Jane Hudspith, Head of Primary Care by email on nencicb-ng.primarycare1@nhs.net Please contact her by telephone via the ICB's Switchboard on 0191-512-8484.

North Cumbria place: For operational queries, please contact Anita Barker, Deputy Delivery Director (North Cumbria) via email on anita.barker1@nhs.net Please contact her by telephone via the ICB's Switchboard on 0191-512-8484.

North Tyneside and Northumberland places: Please contact Alan Bell, Strategic Head of Commissioning Northumberland & North Tyneside by email at nencicb-nor.enquiries@nhs.net or by telephone 0191-512-8484.

3. 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 for questions 3a to 3d. However, we have determined that the information is held by the acute hospital NHS foundation trusts (FTs) 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 email addresses for those acute hospitals to make your request.

ICB Locality	Acute Hospital FT	Email
North Cumbria locality	North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS FT	foirequest@cumbria.nhs.uk
Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland localities	The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS FT	nuth.freedom.information@nhs.net

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