

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 25–258

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

17 October 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 2 October 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

Please can you provide me with the following information under the Freedom of Information Act:

1. How many pharmacy applications were refused where a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) identified a need for pharmacies?
2. How many pharmacy applications were refused where a PNA did not identify a need for pharmacies?
3. How many pharmacy applications were granted where a PNA identified a need for pharmacies?
4. How many pharmacy applications were granted where a PNA did not identify a need for pharmacies?
5. The total number of pharmacy applications received.
6. The reasons for rejecting pharmacy applications where a need was identified.
7. The reasons for granting pharmacy applications where a need was not identified.

Please could you provide the above information for each of the past five years.

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. There was one pharmacy application refused where a PNA identified a need for pharmacies.
2. There were thirty-seven pharmacy applications refused where a PNA did not identify a need for pharmacies.
3. There was one pharmacy applications were granted where a PNA identified a need for pharmacies.
4. Twenty-four pharmacy applications were granted where a PNA did not identify a need for pharmacies.
5. Sixty-three pharmacy applications were received.
6. Over the last 5 years there has only been one identified need in a PNA to be considered. Two applications were received for the same area, it was determined only one pharmacy was needed, the other was refused.
7. An application is granted if an applicant is able to demonstrate that they meet the requirements specified under the applicable regulation; i.e. distance Selling Premises applications are excepted applications and can be approved provided the applicant can demonstrate they meet all criteria regardless of identified needs within a PNA.

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**