

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 24–360

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

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

By Email

15 January 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 17 December 2024 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

Please share the following information regarding COPD and spirometry in your area:

1. How are Spirometry services delivered within your region (tick all that apply):
 - a. Commissioned primary care service (e.g. practice or PCN delivery through a commissioned or LES provision),
 - b. Via CDC (Community Diagnostic Centre),
 - c. Outsourced to a non-GP independent provider,
 - d. Within secondary care,
 - e. As part of TLHC (Targeted Lung Health Check).
2. How many new COPD diagnoses (positive, any GOLD classification) were made in your region in the year 2024?
3. How many patients in total registered with GPs in your area who have COPD?
4. What is the average waiting time for spirometry appointments in your region?
5. How many ARTP (Association of Respiratory Technology and Physiology) accredited healthcare professionals are in your region?

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.

In response to question 3 and in line with Quality and Outcomes Framework information, the COPD register for NENC ICB in 2023/24 was 89,882 patients. There is published information on the QOF – this can be accessed using [Quality and Outcomes Framework, 2023-24 – NHS England Digital](#)

County Durham

1. Spirometry services are delivered within secondary care.
2. In County Durham, the ICB does not hold verified information on COPD diagnoses in 2024.
3. There are 17,498 people currently diagnosed with COPD in County Durham.
4. Average waiting time is currently 34 weeks.
5. Within the County Durham system there are 15 ARTP trained staff, 6 ICB trained staff, plus other staff trained across Primary Care.

Newcastle Gateshead

1. In Newcastle, spirometry services are delivered within secondary care by the Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. In Gateshead, they are delivered by the CBC Health Federation.
2. On this occasion it is not possible 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 Newcastle Gateshead ICB place.
3. Please refer to the response to question 2.
4. Please refer to the response to question 2.
5. Please refer to the response to question 2.

North Cumbria

1. There is no primary care commissioned service. Some Practices/PCN do offer the service following an incentive payment to restart spirometry after Covid. The service is also delivered within secondary care and as part of TLHC.
2. The ICB does not hold verified information on COPD diagnoses in North Cumbria place.
3. Please refer to the response to question 2.
4. Average wait time varies depending on the service and provider.
5. Please refer to the response to question 2.

North Tyneside

1. Commissioned via a primary care federation (a)
2. The ICB does not hold verified information on COPD diagnoses in 2024 in North Tyneside place.
3. Please refer to the response to question 2.
4. Please refer to the response to question 2.
5. Please refer to the response to question 2.

Northumberland

1. No specific commissioned service, there is an ad hoc arrangement dependent on each GP practice.
2. The ICB does not hold verified information on COPD diagnoses in 2024 in Northumberland place.
3. Please refer to the response to question 2.

4. Please refer to the response to question 2.
5. Please refer to the response to question 2.

South Tyneside

1. Spirometry services are delivered via commissioned primary care service.
2. On this occasion it is not possible 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 South Tyneside ICB place.
3. There are 5,568 people currently diagnosed with COPD in South Tyneside.
4. Average wait time is 1 week.
5. Within current commissioned service, 2 ARTP trained nurses, and 2 HCAs in the final stages of ARTP, both passed practical competency just need to pass portfolio.

Sunderland

1. Commissioned primary care service (e.g. practice or PCN delivery through a commissioned or LES provision).
2. On this occasion it is not possible 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 Sunderland ICB place.
3. There are 9,768 people currently diagnosed with COPD in Sunderland.
4. Please refer to the response to question 2.
5. 50 nurses attended and completed training to become accredited in the performing and interpretation of spirometry tests between 2021 and 2023. It is unclear how many are still working within the system.

Tees Valley

1. Spirometry services are delivered via commissioned primary care service. *For Tees Valley, the offer is a mix of PCNs and individual GP practices as part of their NHS Standard Contract. Where a PCN/practice has been unable to stand up a service, the GP Federation has been engaged to provide a temporary service.*
2. On this occasion it is not possible 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 Tees Valley ICB place. *Reports have not yet been finalised.*
3. *This information isn't available at this stage as reports have not yet been finalised for 2024/25.*
4. On this occasion it is not possible 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 Tees Valley ICB place.

However, there should not be a waiting list currently as the ICB has ensured that an equitable service offer is available via PCNs or practices. In areas where practices/PCNs have been unable to set a service up, the GP Federation has been engaged to provide a temporary service on their behalf.

5. Please refer to the response to question 4.

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