

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 25–527

North East and North Cumbria ICB
Pemberton House
Colima Avenue
Sunderland Enterprise Park
Sunderland
SR5 3XB

Tel: 0191 512 8484
E-mail: nencicb.foi@nhs.net

By Email

8 April 2026

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 24 March 2026 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 2000, please provide the following information regarding the Integrated Care Board's (ICB) monitoring, auditing, and review of patients prescribed Liothyronine (T3).

1. *Patient Data Audits*: Between 1st December 2017 and the date of this request (or its predecessor CCG) directed or conducted any audits, data extractions, or "medicines optimisation" reviews that identified specific cohorts of patients prescribed liothyronine?
2. *Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA)*: If the answer to Question 1 is 'Yes', please provide a copy of the Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) associated with these activities, as required under Article 35 of the UK GDPR for the large-scale processing of special category health data.
3. *Lawful Basis for Processing*: Please state the specific Lawful Basis relied upon under Article 6 and the Special Category Condition relied upon under Article 9 of the UK GDPR for the collection and collation of this patient-level data (e.g., dosage, TSH levels, initiation history).
4. *Transparency and Patient Notification*: Please provide a copy of the Privacy Notice, Fair Processing Notice, or Transparency Communication issued to the affected patients to inform them that their clinical data was being processed for the purpose of these audits/reviews, as required by the 'Right to be Informed' (Articles 13 & 14).
5. *Purpose and Outcome*: Please confirm the primary purpose of these audits. Specifically:

- a. Were they used to facilitate the "repatriation" of prescribing from primary to secondary care?
 - b. Were they used to identify patients for the potential withdrawal or restriction of treatment?
 - c. Were they used to support Individual Funding Request (IFR) or Exceptional Funding Request (EFR) decision-making?
6. *Governance*: Please provide the date and the specific minute of the ICB Board (or CCG Governing Body) meeting where these audit activities and any subsequent treatment restriction policies were formally authorised.

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. From the records we currently hold, North East and North Cumbria ICB and its predecessor CCGs have not directly carried out any audits that identified specific cohorts of patients prescribed liothyronine.

All activity related to liothyronine prescribing was carried out by GP practices directly or by third party support organisations on behalf of the GP practice. All such activity was carried out to ensure patients were prescribed liothyronine in accordance with national and local guidelines to ensure safe and effective prescribing for each individual.

Should you wish to redirect your request to GP practices, a list of all practices is available on the NHS Digital website: [GP and GP practice related data – NHS England Digital](#). The GP Practices full file name is **epraccur** and for your reference, NENC ICB's Organisation Data Service (ODS) code is **QMH**.

2. The response to question 1 was 'No'. 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
3. The legal basis for processing personal data is included on the ICB's privacy notice, available on the ICB's website: [Privacy notice | North East and North Cumbria NHS](#).

The link to 'Your information and how we use it' on the ICB's website is: <https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/about-us/corporate-information/your-data-and-information/your-information-and-how-we-use-it/>

NENC ICB does not hold privacy notices for individual GP practices and third-party support organisations.

4. Please refer to the response to question 3.
5. NENC ICB does not carry out audits, as stated in the response to question 1. 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.
6. Please refer to the response to question 1.

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**