

Our Reference      North East and North Cumbria ICB\  
FOI ICB 26–210

**North East and North Cumbria ICB**  
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By Email

29 July 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 27 July 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**

I am looking for some information to be answered under the Freedom of Information Act relating to the digital and IT framework of your ICB. My questions are as follows:

1. Please list the approved digital and IT suppliers to GP practices and primary care networks on your digital and IT framework in your ICB area.
2. Please separately list the approved digital and IT suppliers to Hospital Trusts on your digital and IT framework in your ICB area.
3. Please list the criteria on how digital suppliers get selected/approved to be on the digital and IT framework.
4. How often is this the digital and IT framework list revised?
5. How many contracts between the ICB and the supplier are in place for each supplier on this the digital and IT framework list?
6. How many contracts between organisations under the ICB, such as general practices, primary care networks and hospital trusts, are in place for each supplier on this digital and IT framework list?
7. How is the digital and IT framework accessed by healthcare professionals working in general practice and primary care networks?

I look forward to hearing back within the statutory 20 working day period. Please answer all the questions, or as many as you can. Please do contact me if you require any clarification about this data request.

## Our Response

1. NHS North East and North Cumbria ICB does not maintain a single local "digital and IT framework" containing a fixed list of approved suppliers for GP practices and Primary Care Networks.

For digital systems and services used within primary care, the ICB primarily utilises nationally assured procurement routes and frameworks including:

- NHS England's Digital Services for Integrated Care (DSIC) Catalogue (formerly GP IT Futures).
- NHS England Digital Primary Care procurement routes.
- Health Systems Support Framework (HSSF).
- Other NHS-approved procurement frameworks where appropriate.

The DSIC Catalogue provides access to nationally assured suppliers and solutions which can be procured by Integrated Care Boards, GP practices and Primary Care Networks. The catalogue is maintained nationally by NHS England rather than by individual ICBs. Internal GPIT documentation requires practices and ICBs to make use of DSIC and other approved frameworks where appropriate.

A current list of suppliers available through the DSIC Catalogue is maintained nationally and can be found via NHS England's Digital Services for Integrated Care programme.

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 link to the DSIC website: [Digital Services for Integrated Care - NHS England Digital](#)

In addition, the FOI contact email for NHS England is [england.contactus@nhs.net](mailto:england.contactus@nhs.net). Please write "Freedom of Information" in the subject line.

2. The ICB does not operate a single digital and IT framework for NHS provider trusts and does not maintain a central list of approved suppliers for individual NHS trusts. NHS trusts are separate statutory organisations and may procure digital and IT solutions through a range of national and regional procurement frameworks, including but not limited to:
  - NHS England procurement frameworks.
  - Health Systems Support Framework (HSSF).
  - NHS Shared Business Services (NHS SBS) Digital and IT Frameworks.
  - Crown Commercial Service frameworks.
  - Other compliant procurement routes available under procurement legislation.

Information relating to supplier arrangements held directly by individual NHS trusts is not routinely held by the ICB. Accordingly, under Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act, the ICB does not hold a comprehensive list of suppliers contracted by provider trusts.

However, 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 contacts for provider trusts in the NENC region.

| <b>NENC Acute Hospital FTs</b>           | <b>Email/Online portal</b>                                                                                      |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| County Durham and Darlington NHS FT      | <a href="mailto:cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net">cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net</a>                                          |
| Gateshead Health NHS FT                  | <a href="mailto:ghnt.foi.enquiries@nhs.net">ghnt.foi.enquiries@nhs.net</a>                                      |
| North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS FT     | <a href="mailto:foirequest@cumbria.nhs.uk">foirequest@cumbria.nhs.uk</a>                                        |
| North Tees and Hartlepool NHS FT         | <a href="mailto:nth-tr.foi@nhs.net">nth-tr.foi@nhs.net</a>                                                      |
| Northumbria Healthcare NHS FT            | <a href="mailto:foi@northumbria.nhs.uk">foi@northumbria.nhs.uk</a>                                              |
| South Tees Hospitals NHS FT              | <a href="mailto:stees.foi.admin@nhs.net">stees.foi.admin@nhs.net</a>                                            |
| South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS FT     | <a href="mailto:stsft@infreemation.co.uk">stsft@infreemation.co.uk</a>                                          |
| The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS FT | <a href="https://www.newcastle-hospitals.nhs.uk/help/foi/">https://www.newcastle-hospitals.nhs.uk/help/foi/</a> |

| <b>NENC Mental Health Hospital FTs</b>        | <b>Email</b>                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS FT | <a href="mailto:foi@cntw.nhs.uk">foi@cntw.nhs.uk</a>   |
| Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS FT             | <a href="mailto:teew.foi@nhs.net">teew.foi@nhs.net</a> |

3. The ICB does not approve suppliers onto national frameworks. Framework accreditation is undertaken by the framework owner (for example NHS England or NHS Shared Business Services).

Where digital solutions are procured, relevant criteria may include:

- Compliance with NHS Digital Technology Assessment Criteria (DTAC).
- Completion of the NHS Data Security and Protection Toolkit (DSPT).
- Compliance with UK GDPR and Data Protection legislation.
- Cyber security requirements such as Cyber Essentials and/or equivalent assurance.
- Clinical safety compliance including DCB0129 and, where applicable, DCB0160.
- Interoperability and national information standards requirements.
- Medical device regulatory compliance where applicable.
- Demonstration of value for money and compliance with procurement legislation.

These requirements are reflected within the ICB's GPIT Operating Model, GPIT Service Specification and procurement assurance documentation. [\[GP IT Op M...ammi \(002\) | PDF\]](#), [\[GP IT Serv...n 26-27-MB | Word\]](#), [\[NHS Commiss... DRAFT 0.1 | Word\]](#)

4. The ICB does not maintain a local digital and IT framework list. Frameworks used by the ICB are managed by national organisations such as NHS England, NHS Shared Business Services and Crown Commercial Service.

The review and refresh arrangements therefore vary by framework. Individual framework agreements are revised, renewed or replaced in accordance with the governance and procurement arrangements of the framework owner. The ICB does not control these review cycles.

5. The ICB does not maintain a "digital and IT framework list" and does not hold information in the format requested.

Digital and IT contracts may exist with a range of suppliers across different services, programmes and procurement routes. To identify all contracts and group them by supplier would require creation of new information and a comprehensive review of procurement and contract records across multiple services. The information is not centrally recorded in the format requested.

6. 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.

GP practices, Primary Care Networks and NHS trusts are separate organisations and hold many of their own contractual relationships with suppliers. While some services may be commissioned or procured at system level, the ICB does not maintain a complete record of every digital and IT contract held by all organisations operating within North East and North Cumbria.

7. Healthcare professionals do not generally access procurement frameworks directly to purchase services.

Access to digital and IT procurement frameworks is typically managed through authorised procurement, commissioning, digital and contract management teams within the ICB, GPIT delivery partner organisations, GP practices or Primary Care Networks.

For primary care, nationally assured solutions are available through procurement routes such as the Digital Services for Integrated Care (DSIC) Catalogue. The GPIT Operating Model encourages ICBs, practices and PCNs to make use of these frameworks when procuring digital systems and services.

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](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**