

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\  
FOI ICB 25–447

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](mailto:nencicb.foi@nhs.net)

By Email

17 February 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 29 January 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 investigating demand for Clinical Wheelchair Services (WCS) across the UK.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000/2002, I would like to request the following information relating to the usage of each of this service in your area of authority.

1. How is funding and contracting for WCS structured within your ICB – apart from the NHS, are there any other proportion of funding that is supplied by local authorities or other bodies?
2. What is the total budget allocated for WCS services for the current financial year, and what is the planned budget for the next financial year – if this is not known, can you provide a percentage estimate of whether it will be higher, lower, or unchanged compared with the current budget?
3. What was the total expenditure (£) on WCS services for each of the last three financial years?
4. What proportion of expenditure was on outsourced (i.e. independent sector) service providers for each of the last three financial years?
5. Which independent providers did you use for WCS services in the last financial year, and what value of total spending was with each provider? For example, NRS Healthcare, Millbrook Healthcare, Ross Care, AJM Healthcare, Blatchford, Opcare.

## 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. Most wheelchair services (WCS) commissioned within NENC ICB are provided by acute Foundation Trusts (FTs). This is covered by the wider block contract arrangement with the FTs. There are a small proportion of services contracted with Sunderland and South Tyneside local authorities for wheelchair services.
2. As per response to question 1, costs with the FTs are part of wider block arrangements and therefore NENC ICB does not hold the split for WCS. The contracts for South Tyneside and Sunderland are now both part of larger Community Equipment Store contracts, for which the ICB doesn't have the breakdown specifically for WCS.
3. Total expenditure on WCS services was:

2022/23:	£575,198
2023/24:	£826,372
2024/25:	£915,116

The costs above relate to the wheelchair contract with Sunderland LA, which for 2025/26 is now part of wider Community Equipment Store contract.

4. No expenditure was on outsourced (i.e. independent sector) service providers. The ICB only incurred expenditure with the NHS and Local Authorities in respect of WCS, and nothing with independent sector providers.
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 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**