

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 24-028

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By Email

16 April 2024

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 12 April 2024 for information held by NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB) under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

NENC ICB covers the areas of County Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Cumbria, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland, and Tees Valley (which covers the 5 councils that make it up – Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees).

Please find the information you requested on behalf of the ICB as follows.

Your Request

Under new regulations brought in in January this year mean that from 1 January 2024 a provider seeking to be awarded an NHS Standard Contract by an integrated care board for services to which patient choice applies must first go through a formal accreditation process.

I would like information on all the formal accreditation processes that the ICB has undertaken. For each one, I would like the following information:

1. The date the process began
2. The date the process ended, if it has concluded
3. The name of the supplier seeking accreditation
4. The service they are seeking to supply
5. The outcome of the process

Our Response

We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB does hold the information requested.

NENC ICB has had a choice accreditation process in place since October 2023.

There has been one new provider that has been awarded a new contract via this process. This was Anglia Community Eye Services (ACES) who were awarded a contract to provide Cataract services on 5 December 2023. The process started on 27 October 2023, though the expression of interest to deliver services came prior to the accreditation process being finalised.

There is one provider currently going through the accreditation process. They are Oviva who have applied to be accredited to deliver tier 3 weight management services. The process started 17 January 2024 though there was time taken by the ICB prior to this to generate a revised service specification.

Current provider, Newmedica, have also applied to provide additional services from different sites in the ICB which is being processed via the accreditation process. The ICB has revised a number of its ophthalmology service specifications and the provider is now considering these prior to making a submission and formally starting the process.

It should also be noted that:

- A number of providers have made enquiries about delivering services, but they have not as yet led to an accreditation process beginning.
- The ICB also intends to award a number of current independent sector providers new contracts under direct award process B. These providers are already delivering the ICB's required standards and do not need reaccrediting.
- Where the ICB revises any of its service specifications to the extent that they materially change the standards required, current providers may need to be reaccredited.

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