

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 24–503

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By Email

7 April 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 24 March 2025 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

I am writing to make a formal Freedom of Information (FOI) request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I am seeking specific information regarding Mental Health Act Assessment Fees. To facilitate the process, I have outlined the details of the information I am requesting below:

1. What fee does your Integrated Care Board currently pay Section 12(2) doctors per assessment for Mental Health Act Assessments?
2. Has there been any increase in the fees paid in the past 10 years, if so, provide when and how much?
3. Has there been a change since the BMA advised new fees in 2024?
4. Is the fee different for in hours and out of hours?
5. Is travel time reimbursed (over and above mileage costs)?
6. Are fees paid to consultants whilst on usual clinical duty in and out of hours?
7. The total number of Section 12(2) assessments done annually for each of the last 10 years.
8. The total amount spent annually on Section 12(2) assessments for each of the last 10 years.
9. Do you directly pay the clinician or is this done via a third party (eg a mental health NHS trust).

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. Fees are detailed in the table below:

Area	Cost of Assessment	Cost of travel (per mile)
North Cumbria	Variable from £230-£300 *detail below. (NB. in exceptional circumstances a fee of £480 is offered)	£0.45
Northumberland	£186.59	£0.24
North Tyneside	£186.59	£0.24
Newcastle Gateshead	£186.59	£0.24
South Tyneside	£186.59	£0.24
Sunderland	£175.00	£0.60
County Durham	£173.37	£0.40
Darlington	£173.37	£0.40
Teesside	£178.96	£0.27

*North Cumbria tariff details:

Daytime Hours	£230	For attendance between 8am to 5pm
Evening Hours	£250	For attendance between 5pm and 1am
Night Hours	£300	For attendance between 1am and 8am
Second Doctor Payment	£100	To be paid to non-S12 doctor attending to support

2. Please refer to the attached spreadsheet for responses for ICB places for which NENC ICB process payments. These places are North Cumbria, Northumberland, North Tyneside, Newcastle, Gateshead, South Tyneside, Durham and Darlington.

NENC ICB does not process Sunderland claims, these are done by Sunderland City Council. You may wish to redirect your request to the council's FOI team using the email address freedom.information@sunderland.gov.uk

NENC ICB does not process Teesside claims, these are done by Tees Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV). You may wish to redirect your request to TEWV's FOI team using the email tevv.foi@nhs.net

3. There is an ongoing NENC ICB led piece of work around reviewing the section 12 process and considering improvements to this.
4. Please refer to the table in response 1.
5. No, only mileage costs are reimbursed (refer to the table above).
6. Fees are not paid to consultants who are on call as the first doctor.
7. Please refer to the response to question 2.
8. Please refer to the response to question 2.
9. There are three payment processors currently on behalf of the ICB (North of England Commissioning Support, one local authority and one mental health Foundation Trust).

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