

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 25–358

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

19 December 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 on 2 December 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, 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

Please treat this as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I am seeking information about the Integrated Care Board's involvement in the handling, processing, or sharing of patient-level data, including cross-border pathways involving Northern Ireland. Please provide the following exact information:

1. Documents describing the ICB's role in processing or reviewing patient-level data, including (but not limited to):
 - commissioning datasets
 - referral management
 - clinical pathway reviews
 - risk stratification
 - waiting list data
 - population health analytics
 - “data quality” or “data cleansing” programmes

Please provide any formal documents, internal papers, briefing notes, protocols, or guidance created or used by the ICB.

2. All communications between the ICB and any of the following bodies involving patient-level data
 - NHS Trusts within the ICB's region
 - GP practices in the ICB's region
 - NHS England (formerly NHS Digital)
 - Department of Health and Social Care
 - SPPG (Strategic Planning and Performance Group, Northern Ireland)
 - BSO (Business Services Organisation, Northern Ireland)
 - Any cross-border pathway management units

This includes:

- emails
- memos
- Teams/Zoom notes
- meeting minutes
- data sharing discussions
- risk or pathway discussions
- correspondence involving "data quality," "risk," or "clinical governance"

Timeframe: 2016 – present.

3. All ICB-held records relating to cross-border patient data involving Northern Ireland including:
 - neurology pathways
 - urology pathways
 - waiting list transfers
 - risk assessments
 - pathway "tidying" or recoding
 - commissioning decisions involving NI patients
 - any record held at population level where NI patient data was included

Again, documents only, not summaries.

4. All internal ICB discussions regarding:
 - patient record alterations
 - coding corrections
 - record "tidying," "cleansing," or "archiving"
 - data anomalies
 - missing records
 - GP record correction programmes
 - historic data quality reviews
 - waiting list validation programmes

Please provide any:

- internal emails
- instructions
- reports
- audit findings
- action logs
- internal risk assessments

5. A list of all systems on which the ICB holds or processes patient-level data including:

- commissioning datasets
- analytics platforms
- data warehouse feeds
- population health tools
- interoperability systems
- cross-border pathway systems

For each system, provide:

- system name
- purpose
- categories of data held
- level of patient-identifiable information held
- the ICB's legal basis for accessing it

6. A yes/no confirmation:

- Does the ICB ever receive, process, or analyse patient-level identifiable data?
- Has the ICB ever accessed, reviewed, or been copied into information relating to any patient who moved between England and Northern Ireland?
- Has the ICB participated in any cross-border pathway reviews with DoH NI, SPPG, or BSO?
- Has the ICB ever undertaken any retrospective "data-cleansing," "data quality," or "record correction" projects involving GP or Trust records?

These questions require yes/no answers under FOI law.

Format: Please provide:

- copies of all documents
- digital format preferred (PDF, .docx, or email exports)
- and cite the specific exemption if anything is withheld

Statutory reminder: Under FOI, you are required to:

- confirm or deny whether information is held,
- provide the information within 20 working days,
- and rely only on lawful exemptions with explanation.

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. NENC ICB's Privacy notice is available on our website: [Privacy notice | North East and North Cumbria NHS](#). The website page includes details of where we collect and use personal data.
2. 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. Please refer to the response to question 2.

4. Please refer to the response to question 2.
5. 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.

For your information, commissioning datasets are available to the ICB on the NHS Digital website [Data sets in support of statutory duties – NHS England Digital](#) via an internal data warehouse provided by North of England Commissioning Support (NECS). You may wish to redirect your request to NECS using the email england.contactus@nhs.net. Please write "Freedom of Information" in the subject line.

6. In response to your questions:
 - Does the ICB ever receive, process, or analyse patient-level identifiable data? Yes – record level pseudonymised
 - Has the ICB ever accessed, reviewed, or been copied into information relating to any patient who moved between England and Northern Ireland? No
 - Has the ICB participated in any cross-border pathway reviews with DoH NI, SPPG, or BSO? No
 - Has the ICB ever undertaken any retrospective "data-cleansing," "data quality," or "record correction" projects involving GP or Trust records? No

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