

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 25–503

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

17 March 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 3 March 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 writing to make a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I would like to understand how ophthalmology services – particularly subspecialty ophthalmology – are currently commissioned within your Integrated Care Board (ICB), and the contractual or accreditation routes through which these services are delivered. Please provide the following information:

1. A list of all current arrangements through which the ICB commissions ophthalmology services, including both general ophthalmology and subspecialty services:
 - Glaucoma
 - Medical retina (including Age-related Macular Degeneration – AMD)
 - Oculoplastics
 - Vitreoretinal surgery
 - Cornea and external eye disease
 - Paediatric ophthalmology
 - Neuro-ophthalmology
 - Urgent eye care / acute eye services

2. For each subspecialty identified in response to Question 1, please specify the commissioning route used, categorised as one of the following:
 - Patient Choice accreditation
 - Any Qualified Provider (AQP) style accreditation
 - Other non-contractual qualifying route (please specify)
 - Formal NHS contract following procurement
3. For any services that are delivered via a formal contract that required a procurement process, please provide the following details for each such contract:
 - Contract title and reference number
 - Name of the incumbent provider
 - Contract start date
 - Contract end date (including any extension options)
 - The procurement route used (e.g., open tender, framework call-off, direct award, etc.)
 - The scope of ophthalmology services included within that contract

If any part of this request exceeds the cost limit, please provide advice and assistance under Section 16 of the Act to help me refine the request so that it can be answered within the limit.

Our Response

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

1. NENC ICB commissions ophthalmology services through the NHS and the independent sector.
2. Commissioning routes for independent providers are shown on the spreadsheet attached.
3. 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. However, details on public procurements and contract notices are recorded on the 'Find a Tender' website: [Publications scheme | North East and North Cumbria NHS \(northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk\)](https://publicationscheme.nhs.uk/).

In accordance with s.21 of the FOIA, we are not required to provide information in response to a request if it is reasonably accessible to you by other means.

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**