

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\  
FOI ICB 25–405

North East and North Cumbria ICB  
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By Email

22 January 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 6 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 making a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

This request relates to NHS-commissioned prescribing for weight management medicines in your ICB area, including (but not limited to) tirzepatide (Mounjaro®) and semaglutide (Wegovy®), delivered via specialist weight management services and/or any primary care supported model where applicable.

Please provide the information below for (a) the last 12 months, and (b) the last 24 months (or the maximum period held if shorter). Please provide data in machine-readable format (CSV/Excel) where possible. Where information is held by a commissioned provider on your behalf, please provide it or clearly state whether it is held and by whom.

**Eligibility criteria and governance (documents)**

1. Current eligibility criteria/policy for NHS weight management medicines, including BMI thresholds, ethnicity adjustments (if any), the list of comorbidities used, exclusions, and any prioritisation/cohorting rules.
2. Previous versions of the criteria/policy since implementation began, with effective dates and a shortchange log (or equivalent documentation).

3. Any decision papers, minutes, or internal briefings explaining why thresholds were set at their current level, including reference to capacity, affordability, cohorting, or prioritisation.

Access funnel and outcomes (numbers)

4. Total number of patients:
  - a. referred into the pathway
  - b. assessed
  - c. accepted
  - d. declined/rejected
  - e. started on treatment (initiated first dose)
  - f. currently under active treatment (as of response date)
  - g. discontinued
  - h. completed a defined programme/treatment period (if completion is defined)
5. For those declined/rejected, provide reason categories and counts, including (where used):
  - did not meet BMI threshold
  - did not meet comorbidity threshold
  - capacity constraints / waiting list
  - not commissioned / not funded
  - clinical contraindication
  - did not engage / DNA
  - other (please specify)
6. Waiting times (median/mean/longest where held) from referral to assessment, and from acceptance to treatment initiation.
7. Current waiting list size and longest wait.

Funding responsibility (“who pays”)

8. Please provide the commissioning and funding responsibility route once a patient is accepted, including:
  - which organisation holds the prescribing budget and pays for the medicine costs
  - the funding mechanism used (block/activity/pass-through/other)
  - any patient number cap/capacity cap and where documented
9. Annual budget allocated and actual spend for the pathway (service + medicines).

Provider(s), delivery model, and capacity

10. Provider organisation(s) delivering the pathway and contract details (dates, value).
11. Any KPIs related to access, waiting time, outcomes, engagement/completion.
12. Current capacity (new assessments per month; new treatment starts per month; active caseload capacity).

If any part risks exceeding the FOIA cost limit, please advise which parts and provide assistance to refine while retaining the core objective: comparable access and funding data across ICBs.

**Our Response**

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

Eligibility criteria and governance (documents)

1. We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB does hold the information you have requested. However, this is publicly available here <https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/media/10wo5a20/hwto-patient-prioritisation-guideline-002.pdf>

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.

2. The policy was developed and introduced in April 2025. There is no previous version of the policy.
3. Meeting papers can be found on the ICB's website: [Meetings | North East and North Cumbria NHS](#). In addition, the ICB website includes the page [Healthy weight and obesity | North East & North Cumbria NHS](#) which details information about the work in the NENC region.

Access funnel and outcomes (numbers)

4. The Primary Care Prescribing Pathway introduced in July 2025. Prescriptions to patients, July 2025 to January 2026, are detailed in the table below. Please note, Tier 3 prescribing data is not yet available.

Prescriptions							
Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Total
181	85	183	236	176	232	29	1122

5. On this occasion it is not possible to provide all 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 all of the information requested. NENC ICB does not hold this level of category data, however, primary care prescribing data relating to rejections:

Total number assessed for pathway	1263
Total number declined Tirzepatide	128
Total number actively stopped Tirzepatide	8

6. For Primary Care Prescribing Pathway there is no wait time currently. For Tier 3 Specialist Weight Management Services waiting times range from under 18 weeks to 2 years.
7. For Primary Care Prescribing Pathway there is no wait time currently. For Tier 3 Specialist Weight Management Services, the waiting list is approximately 9200 and the longest wait is 2 years.

Funding responsibility (“who pays”)

8. North East and North Cumbria ICB hold the GP Prescribing Budget in which medicines costs are picked up. Reimbursements to GPs are based on actual activity. The patient cohort cap is 1,415 patients and was set as per national guideline
9. The annual budget allocated for 2025/26 is £1,632,000, of which £616k is allocated to the LIS/LES management by GPs and £1,016,000 is to cover the drugs costs.

We are unable to split the actual spend for the pathway due to the usage of the same drugs being used in other treatments e.g. treatment of diabetes.

Provider(s), delivery model, and capacity

10. 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. Primary Prescribing is delivered by a LES specification. However, this was previously responded to in FOI ICB 25-360 which is attached.

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.

11. KPIs and measures for Primary Care Prescribing are in line with NHSE requirements. KPIs and measures for Tier 3 Specialist Weight Management Services under review/negotiation linked to updated service specifications.

12. Funding envelope for Primary Care Prescribing Pathway is for 1450 patients Current commissioned capacity for Tier 3 Specialist Weight Management Services is for 4000 patients.

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**