

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 26–129

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

24 June 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 13 June 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, relating to the governance and management of Patient Group Directions (PGDs) within your Integrated Care Board and across your system.

We recognise that PGD governance within an ICB may be fully or partially devolved to member organisations, GP federations, primary care networks, or community providers. The primary purpose of this request is to understand how PGD governance is structured across your system, and to identify the most appropriate contacts at each level.

1. Does your ICB hold central oversight or coordination of PGD governance across your system? Please indicate: Yes — managed centrally / Partial — oversight held centrally but operational management devolved / No — fully devolved to member organisations / Unknown
2. If PGD governance is fully or partially devolved, please identify which organisations within your system are responsible, where known. For example: GP federations, Primary Care Networks, acute trusts, community trusts, NHS 111/ urgent treatment centres, community pharmacy contractors. Please name these organisations where possible.
3. Does your ICB have any system-wide PGD policy, framework, template, or register that applies across member organisations? If yes, please briefly describe its scope and format.

4. Who is the most appropriate contact within your ICB for medicines governance or PGD matters? Please provide name, job title, and email address.
5. Where PGD governance is devolved, please provide the name, job title, and email address of the most appropriate contact at each member organisation, or indicate who would be best placed to redirect this request.
6. If this request is being redirected or forwarded to another organisation, please confirm the name and contact details of that organisation.

We understand that some or all of this information may not be held centrally. Where this is the case, confirmation under Section 1(1)(a) of the Act would be gratefully received, along with any signposting to the organisations most likely to hold the relevant information.

Please respond within 20 working days in accordance with your obligations under the Act.

Our Response

1. Partial: Oversight for ICB NHS commissioned services are held centrally but operational management, is devolved to services. The ICB has governance responsibilities for its NHS commissioned services as an authorising body.
2. The ICB authorising body responsibilities are fully devolved to trusts that have been commissioned by the ICB to deliver NHS services. In these cases, the trust (as an authorising body) is fully responsible for the delivery of the service and for all the required governance responsibilities relating to PGDs if these are required by that NHS service.

The ICB Medicines optimisation team does not hold a list of trusts that the ICB commission services from. Please refer to the ICB contracts team and the trusts within the region.

The ICB does hold a list of commissioned services that have requested the ICB to act as authorising body for PGDs they use within their NHS services. These organisations are listed below:

- British Pregnancy Advisory Service
- Connect Health
- Darlington MSK (Connect)
- Well Up North (Northumberland Medical Alliance)
- Pure Unity Health Group
- ICB for emergency outbreaks & vaccination support

3. Yes, NENC ICB has a system-wide PDB policy that applies across member organisations. The policy is publicly available on the ICB's website: [icbp032-development-and-approval-of-pgds-policy-3.pdf](#). Therefore, the ICB considers this element of your request exempt from disclosure by way of s.21 as the information is readily accessible by other means.
4. Responsibility for medicines governance and PGD matters lies with the Medicines optimisation Corporate Team. Please contact the team via email at nencicb-sun.mo@nhs.net.
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 the most appropriate contact for the ICB PGD governance related queries please email: nencicb-sun.mo@nhs.net.

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**